NG LIFE™

FROM THE CREATOR OF MUGEN SPIRAL!

5

Mizuho Kusanagi

TOKYOPOP

Manga
Comedy
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NG LIFE™

[illegible] growing [illegible] so, they agree [illegible] Yuuma, who [illegible] ation. However, [illegible] Rema, Yuuma [illegible]

[illegible] ing and compelling story."
—[illegible] as Wi ki

[illegible] is sparkly and cute, and the [illegible] love frustration is endearing [illegible] into their hearts."
—O A U A

漫画革命

THE MANGA REVOLUTION

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TEEN
AGE 13+

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MILD VIOLENCE
MILD GORE
MILD FANSERVICE

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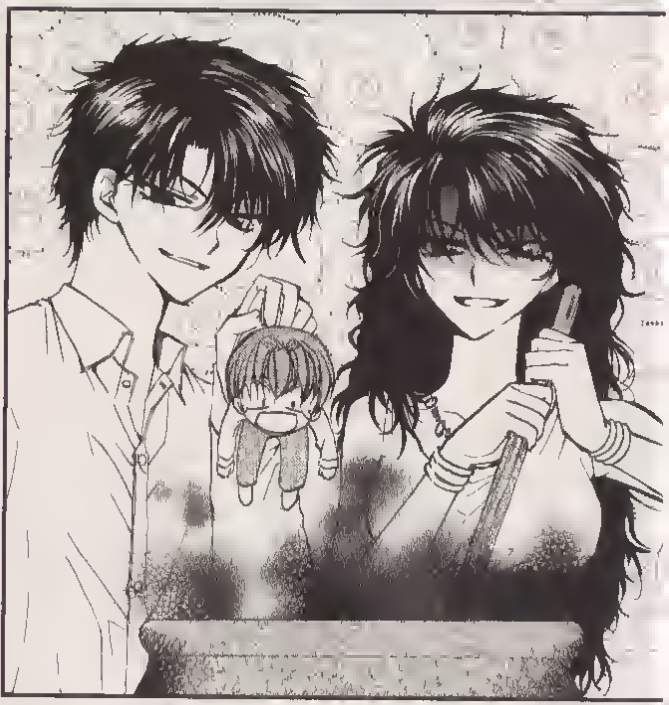
NG LIFE

Volume 5
Mizuho Kusanagi



Vol. 5

By Mizuho Kusanagi

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

NG ライフ

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

佑城裕真 YUUMA UJOH

A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT WHO MOVES IN NEXT DOOR TO KEIDAI. IN THE PAST HE WAS SIRIX'S WIFE, SERENA. THOUGH HE WAS BORN A BOY IN THE PRESENT, HE STILL STRONGLY RESEMBLES SERENA. LIKES SERIZAWA.

冴木敬大 KEIDAI SAEKI

OUR HERO. IN HIS PAST LIFE, HE WAS A GLADIATOR NAMED SIRIX. HE REMEMBERS HIS PAST LIFE, AND EVEN IN THE PRESENT, HE SPENDS HIS DAYS IN AGONY DUE TO HIS UNDYING LOVE FOR HIS PAST WIFE, SERENA ...

芹沢美依 MII SERIZAWA

KEIDAI'S BEST FRIEND WHO KNOWS ALL ABOUT KEIDAI'S MEMORIES OF HIS PAST LIFE. IN THE PAST SHE WAS LOLEUS, SIRIX'S BEST FRIEND. SHE LIKES KEIDAI BUT CAN'T BRING HERSELF TO TELL HIM...?

STORY

KEIDAI SAEKI CAN REMEMBER HIS PAST LIFE. MANY YEARS AGO, HE WAS A YOUNG MAN NAMED SIRIX WHO LIVED IN A CITY CALLED POMPEII WITH A WIFE NAMED SERENA AND A BEST FRIEND NAMED LOLEUS. THEY LIVED IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS BUT ULTIMATELY PERISHED WHEN THEIR CITY WAS DESTROYED IN A VOLCANIC ERUPTION. AND NOW, IN THE PRESENT .. HIS WIFE HAS BEEN REBORN AS A BOY AND HIS BEST FRIEND AS A GIRL! EVERY DAY IS FULL OF ANGUISH FOR KEIDAI AS HE STRUGGLES WITH THESE RELATIONSHIPS IN A COMPLETELY ALTERED PRESENT!

ADD YUUMA'S COUSIN SHINOBU (SMYRNA IN THE PAST) TO THE MIX, AND KEIDAI HAS EVEN MORE TO PANIC ABOUT...

SMYRNA (PAST)

REINA SAKAKIBARA

A GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE SERENA. BUT SHE SOMEHOW KNEW KEIDAI'S NAME FROM HIS PAST LIFE ..?

SHINOBU KASAMI (PRESENT)

YUUMA'S COUSIN. IN THE PAST, HE WAS SERENA'S OLDER SISTER. BECAUSE OF HIS HUGE SISTER COMPLEX, HE BULLIES KEIDAI (SIRIX).

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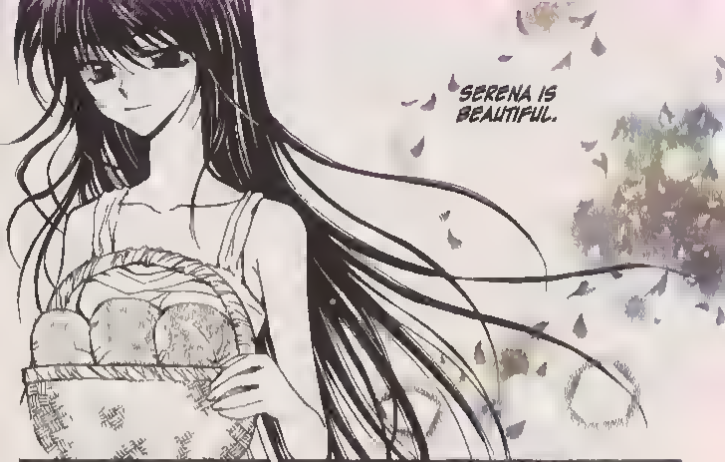
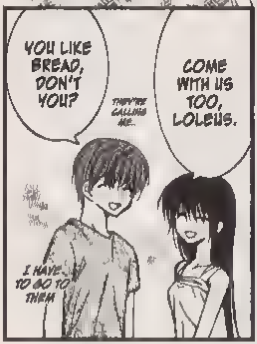
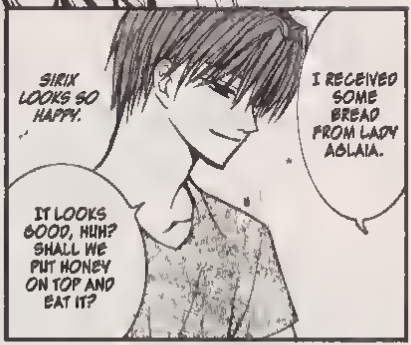
エヌジー
NGライフ
scene24

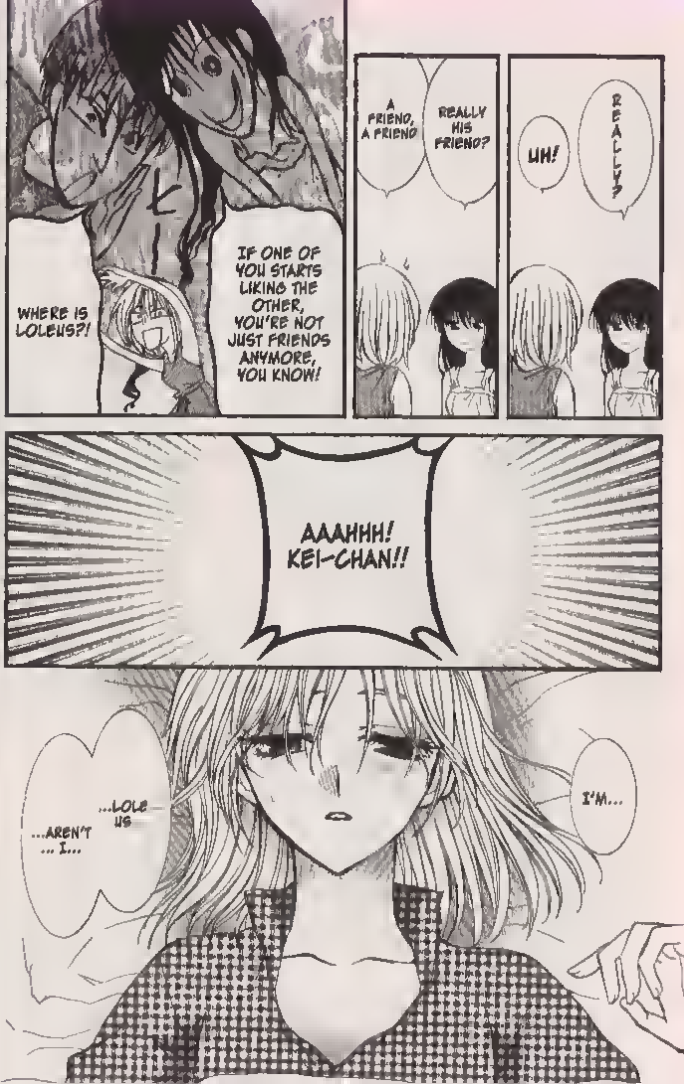


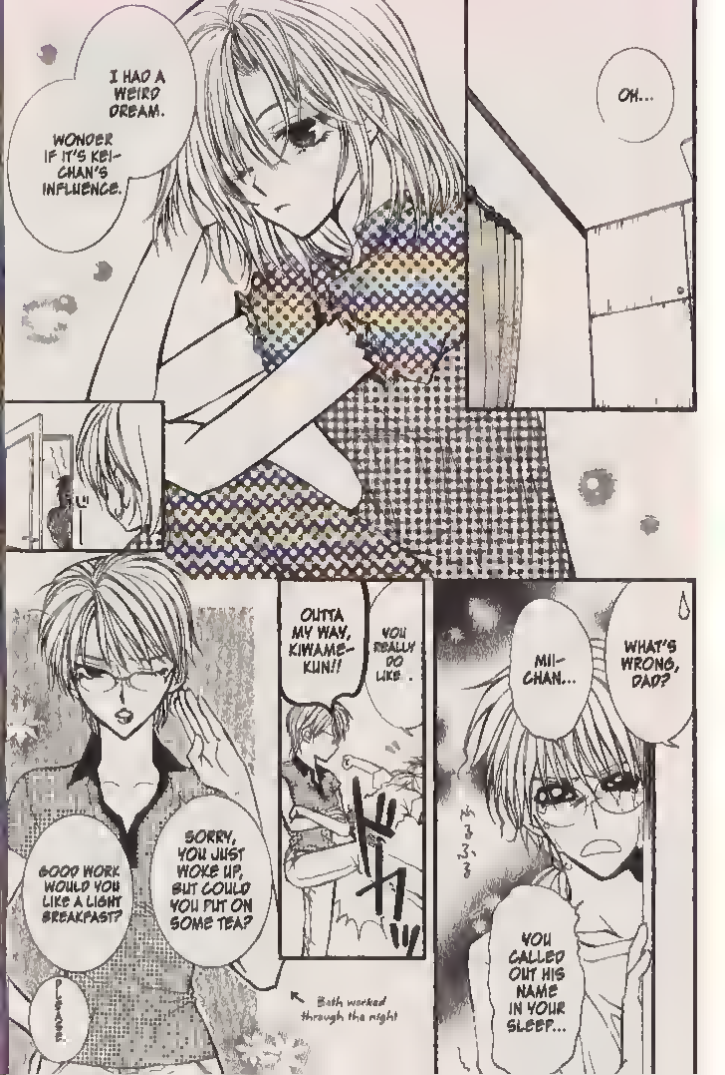




Thank You so much for picking up NG Life Volume 5! Please take it easy, have fun, and sink into it. ❤

HUH?
...WAIT.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAAAA?!
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT.
AREN'T YOU A GIRL?
WHO AM I? I'M LOLEUS!
Is Loleus fussy-looking?!
.....
IT...IT'S OKAY!
'CAUSE I'M YOUR FRIEND EVEN AS A GIRL..
Grab

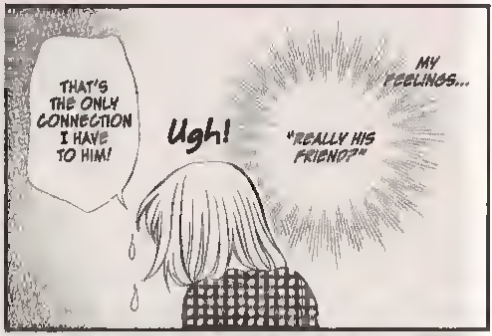

WHERE IS LOLEUS?!
IF ONE OF YOU STARTS LIKING THE OTHER, YOU'RE NOT JUST FRIENDS ANYMORE, YOU KNOW!
A FRIEND, A FRIEND
REALLY HIS FRIEND?
UH!
REALLY?
AAAHHH! KEI-CHAN!!
I'M...
...LOLEUS
...AREN'T ...I...

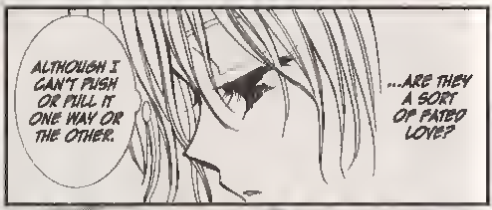

I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
WONDER IF IT'S KEI-CHAN'S INFLUENCE.
OH...
WHAT'S WRONG, DAD?
MII-CHAN...
YOU CALLED OUT HIS NAME IN YOUR SLEEP...
OUTTA MY WAY, KIWAME-KUN!!
YOU REALLY DO LIKE .
SORRY, YOU JUST WOKE UP, BUT COULD YOU PUT ON SOME TEA?
GOOD WORK. WOULD YOU LIKE A LIGHT BREAKFAST?
PLEASE.
Both worked through the night

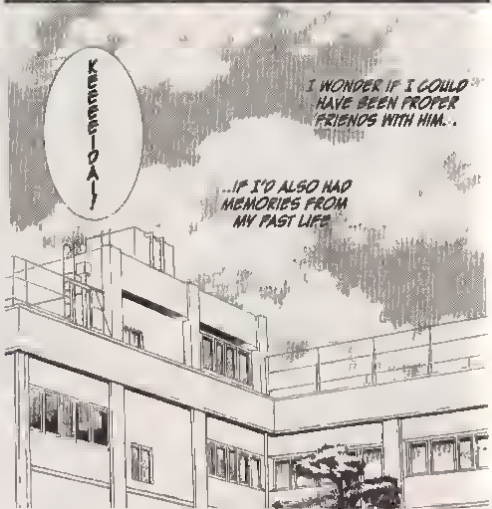
KIWAME-KUN, STOP HANGING AROUND AT NIGHT ASKING FOR STORY IDEAS, OKAY?
BUT I REALLY CAN'T THINK OF ANY!
I DON'T HAVE ANY FOR YOU!
HEY, YOU TWO.
WOULD YOU WANT TO BE TOGETHER EVEN IF YOU WERE REBORN?
SORRY, DAD. I ASKED WITHOUT ASSESSING THE SITUATION...
I'LL FIX MY FLAWS--- JUST TELL ME WHAT THEY ARE.
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.
MA~
MARINE-SAN..!
NOOO WAY. I'D LIKE A WILDER, OLDER GUY NEXT.
WELL...♡
...IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE DAD, MOM WOULD BE MISSING OUT IN SOME WAY...
...EVEN IF THEIR LOVE IS ONLY FOR THIS LIFETIME.

It's Volume 5 of NG Life. Every time one of my comics comes out, I'm always appreciative x100 to all my readers, my editorial staff, and my assistants for their hard work. This time I'd like to talk a bit about the signing event I went to at the Yokohama Animate in July of 2008.

It was going to be my first signing event ever... and since I tend to get really flustered around people and suck at doing autographs (I'm so jealous of people who have cool signatures), when I was first approached to do it, I was like, "Whaaat?" and really went back and forth about the whole thing. But then I thought, the only opportunity I get to really meet my readers is to do stuff like this, so I decided to undertake the challenge after all!







I NEVER SAID I LIKED YUUMA!
BUT DON'T WE HAVE THE SAME FACE?! IT'S SO INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT YOU LIKE YUUMA BUT I'M NO GOOD!
ぺったり
I WONDER IF REINA-CHAN LIKES KEI-CHAN AFTER ALL?
NOW SHE WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF YOU.
WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT SERENA?
ヒック
SO YOU HATE ME, KEIDAI.
OHHH?
NO... WAI...
グニャ
NOT THAT I CARE.
I HATE YOU TOO.
SERENA...

...HOW KEI-CHAN FEELS...
...TOWARDS THE GIRL WHO HAS SERENA'S FACE.
I WONDER...
GET HIM!
I'M NOT SERENA!!
SERIZAWA!
WHAT?
HELP Meeee!
I give I give
OKAY! TREAT ME TO STRAWBERRY MILK!

FINE I'M GONNA GET UP BY MYSELF!!
DON'T JUST GET UP!
.....
JEEZ, WHAT THE...
... HECK ...
IS IT MY IMAGINATION? KEI-CHAN'S BEEN A LITTLE DISTANT LATELY
SERIZAWA, LISTEN TO ME!
WHAT A GREAT GUY YOU ARE, LOLEIKO!
HOW IT WAS.
He was so cute like a puppy.
YOU REALLY ARE THE BEST AT CALMING ME DOWN
DON'T TELL ME MY HEART IS SO TRANS-PARENT?
HIDE IT, HIDE IT.
...? WHAT?
NOTH-ING.
THAT'S RIGHT, I MEANT TO ASK.. DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KEI-CHAN'S PAST LIFE, REINA-CHAN?
YES, I DO.
I KNEW IT! SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PAST LIFE THING!
A RELA-TIVE OF SERENA'S OR SOME-THING?

REINA-CHAN...?
KEIDAI! LET'S GO OUT SOME-WHERE TODAY!
I'm coming too
Today Keidai has plans to play games with me
I MADE HER MAD...?

BUT I JUST WANTED TO ASK HER A FEW THINGS ABOUT OUR PAST LIVES IF SHE'S ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED..
IT'S MIKAGE-SAN AND SHIINA-CHAN
Is he picking her up?
?
I BELIEVE I SAID THAT I WOULD NOT REQUIRE YOU TO RETRIEVE ME...
YOUR MAIDS ASKED ME TO.
DUE TO YOUR RECORD OF COLLAPSING IN THE STREET

AGLAIA...
...YOU WOULDN'T EVEN SPARE ME A GLANCE.
IF I DIDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THIS..
...IS NOT MY NAME.
THAT ...
...EVEN CARE WHICH ONE YOU ARE ANYMORE.
I DON'T...
AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS...
...WE'RE FINALLY IN A PLACE WHERE WE CAN HOLD A REAL CONVERSATION, AND I GET THIS?

AS LONG AS YOU'RE MINE...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE AGLAIA OR SHIINA.
UH...
HOLD ON, HOLD ON! MIKAGE-SAN AND SHIINA-CHAN...
WHAAAAAT?!
I WONDER IF KEI-CHAN KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT OELOS LOVED LADY AGLAIA?!
I WONDER IF LOLEUS KNEW ABOUT THIS.
AHH! IF ONLY I HAD MEMORIES TOO!

REINA-CHAN.
You scared me
REINA-CHAN?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE REINA IS?
MII.
AH...

I THOUGHT WE WOULD GO HOME TOGETHER, BUT SHE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
.....
IT IS FINE IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
I'LL TRY LOOKING FOR HER A LITTLE BIT MORE.
OKAY...
MIIII! GO OUT AND GET ME AN ENERGY DRINK. MY USUAL ONE...
OKAAAY.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO OUT THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
IT'LL BE FINE!
I WONDER IF REINA-CHAN MADE IT HOME ALL RIGHT.

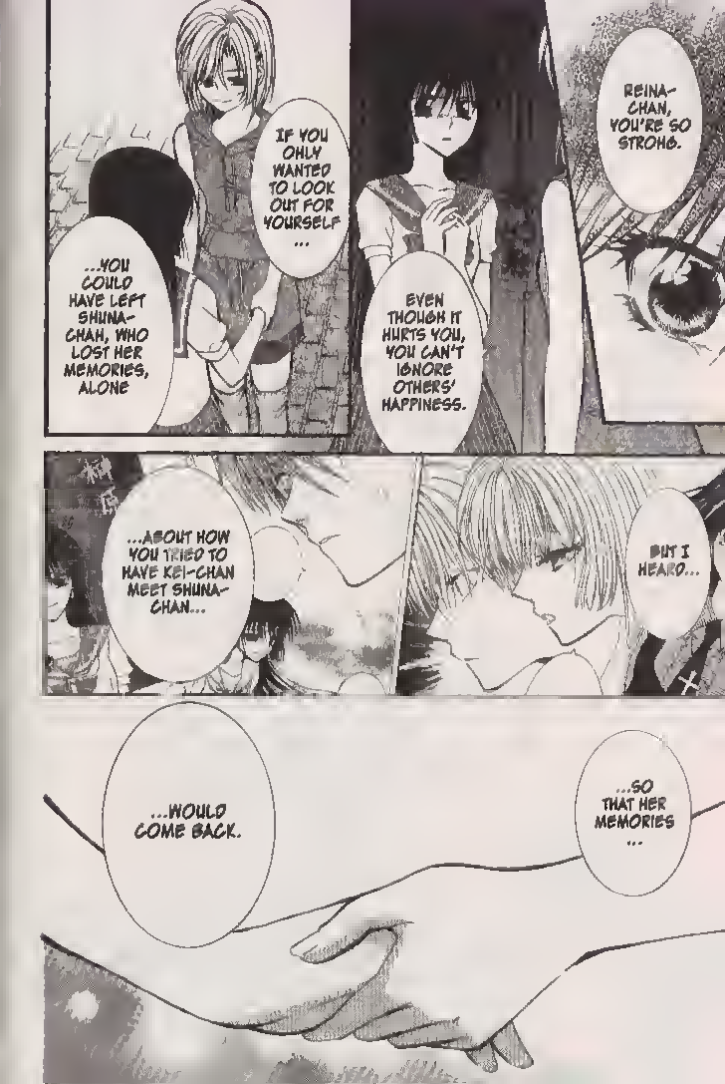
WANNA GO HAVE SOME FUN WITH US?
YOU'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL? YOU'RE HOT. THAT'S KINDA INSANE.
REINA-CHAN?!
O-O
REALLY? GET IN, GET IN.

GO HOME.
REINA-CHAN.
.....
Slap
I DON'T WANNA GO HOME. LET GO!
NO!
SHUNA-CHAN'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
GO HOME.
YOUR FRIEND'S HOT TOO
THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS?
LET ME GO.

YOU...
Dude, really?
Get right!
What?
...YOU KNOW THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME.
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT, REINA-CHAN.
I'M A STRANGER WHO JUST LOOKS LIKE SERENA
I'M NOT REALLY CONNECTED TO POMPEII AND THOSE PAST LIVES
I HAVE NO MEMORIES.
THAT'S WHAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING
AND KEI-CHAN, WHO DOES, WOULD STILL STOP YOU.

DO YOU...LIKE MIKASE-SAN?
.....
UGH, I HATE THIS...
I WONDER IF SOUICHI WOULD STOP ME...
AND SOUICHI...?
THOUGH I'VE BEEN REJECTED SO MANY TIMES...
...I CRY AND THEN CHASE AFTER HIM AGAIN...
...WITH MY HEART POUNDING...
THOUGH I KNOW IT'S USELESS

IT'S NOT FAIR.
TO LOVE SOMEONE BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN.
SINCE MY BIG SISTER LOST HER MEMORIES ...
... SOUICHI'S BEEN OBSESSED MORE AND MORE WITH THE PAST LIVES.
NOTHING BUT...THE PAST
HE'S AN IDIOT, AND I WISH HE'D FORGET TOO!
BE-CAUSE THEN..


REINA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO STRONG.
EVEN THOUGH IT HURTS YOU, YOU CAN'T IGNORE OTHERS' HAPPINESS.
IF YOU ONLY WANTED TO LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF ...
...YOU COULD HAVE LEFT SHUNA-CHAN, WHO LOST HER MEMORIES, ALONE
BUT I HEARD...
...ABOUT HOW YOU TRIED TO HAVE KEI-CHAN MEET SHUNA-CHAN...
...SO THAT HER MEMORIES ...
...WOULD COME BACK.

REINA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO STRONG.
STRONG...
...AND KIND.
WELL, IT SEEMED SO ROUGH ON SOUICHI --
I COULDN'T BEAR TO ...
THINKING THAT MY BIG SISTER...
. .LOST HER MEMORIES THAT I'D ENVIED FOR SO LONG. . COULDN'T SHE AT LEAST GIVE THEM TO ME . ?
I WAS SO MAD!
I'M NOT STRONG ... AT ALL. ...

DO YOU LOVE SERENA THAT MUCH?
OF COURSE I DO. I'LL ALWAYS LOVE HER THE BEST.

WAAAAHHH!

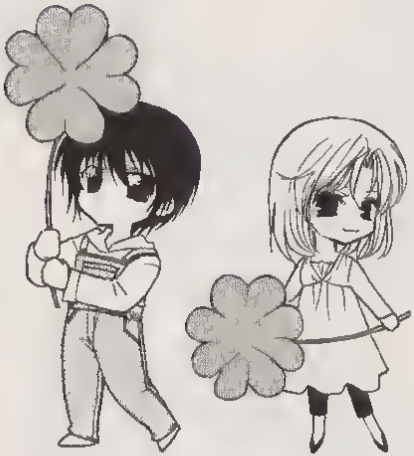
よれ
よろ
よぼ
CAN SHE INK OR TONE?
OH, MII-CHAN. THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS?
BACK-GROUNDS WOULD BE GOOD TOO!
SHE'S JUST HANGING OUT.
SHE CANNOT.
That's quite a level up
I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY. IT'S JUST INSTANT, BUT PLEASE HAVE SOME.
Rich girl
HERE!

...THOUGHT YOU HATED ME.
I...
It's good
BUT I DIDN'T HATE YOU.
I SUPPOSE IT'D BE A LIE IF I SAID I DIDN'T GET JEALOUS.
Ahaha
YOU MUST'VE HATED THAT.
CAUSE I'VE BEEN ALL OVER KEIDAI.
...I GOT TO LIKE YOU MORE.
TODAY...

AND YET YOU WANT TO STAY AS YOU ARE.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFESS HOW I FEEL.
I NEED TO GET STRONG TOO.
HERE'S HER WEAK SPOT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU STUPID?
IT'S ROUGH ON NIM TOO!
HE'S BY FAR THE BIGGEST IDIOT ABOUT THIS PAST LIFE NONSENSE.
AND THAT'S OKAY?
IF I TOLD HIM...
...YEAH.
...IT WOULD ALL BREAK APART.
DON'T YOU EVER WISH NE'D LOSE HIS MEMORIES?
AS I AM... I WANT TO STAY BY HIS SIDE LIKE ALWAYS.
NO, I DON'T.

IT WAS BECAUSE KEI-CHAN HAD HIS MEMORIES ...
... THAT ...
...HE FOUND ME.
MY BIG SISTER USED TO TELL ME...
...THAT LOLEUS WAS ALWAYS SMILING...
... ALWAYS AN OPTI-MIST ...
EH?
YOU'RE LOLEUS.

HE WAS A WARM PERSON WISHING FOREMOST FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THE ONE IMPORTANT TO HIM.
...I WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MY PAST SELF...
I DISCOVERED SOMETHING...
I WANT...
...TO BE SOMEONE LIKE THAT TO KEI-CHAN AS WELL.
NO PROBLEM, IT'LL HEAL SOON!
SORRY FOR HURTING YOUR CHEEK.



NGライフ

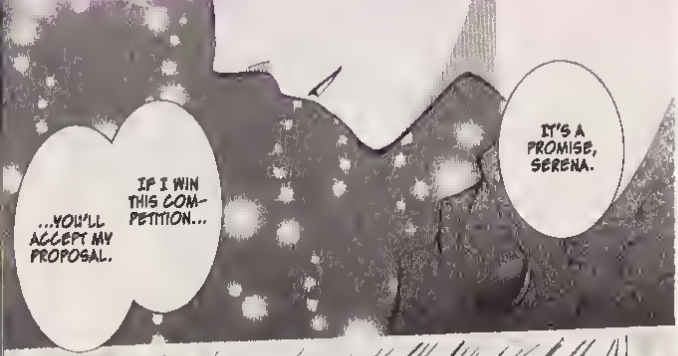
scene25

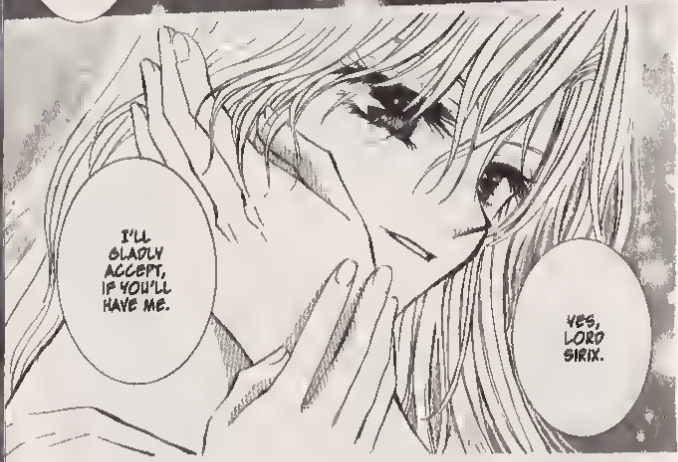
I always put my very best efforts into my color illustrations
But sometimes I try too hard and end up spinning my wheels ~ᵕ̩̩ᵕ̩̩

The little snippet that my handler H added to this color illustration was "Presents from Santa Keidai full of No Good-ness ♡"

Is that harassment, Keidai?

At this time Hana to Yume was on its Christmas issue

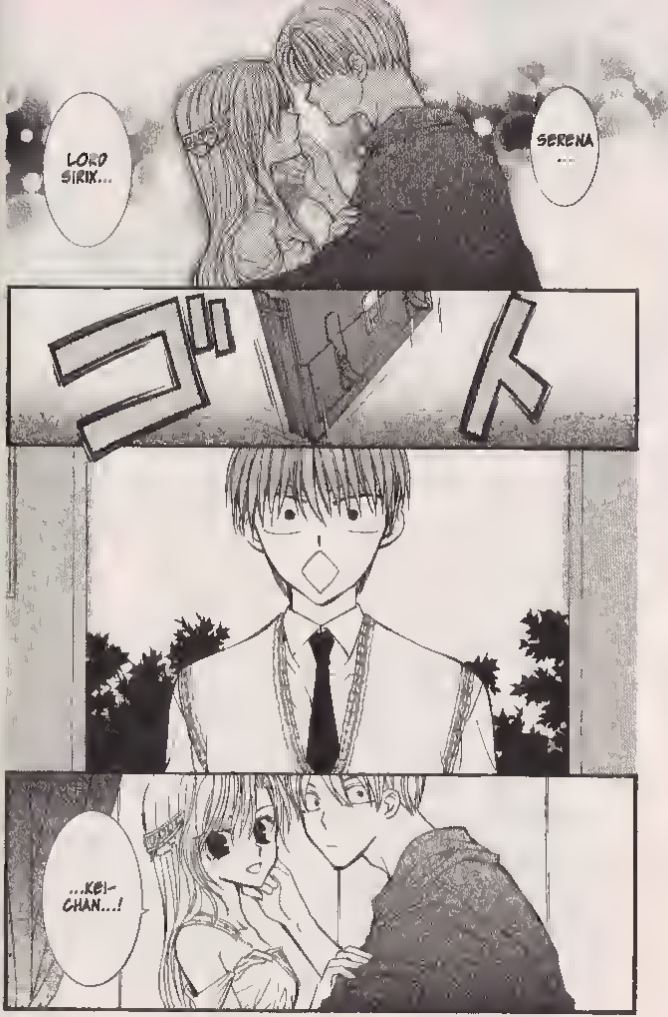




For my fifth anniversary as a mangaka, my friends gave me an album filled with warm words and wonderful illustrations (it's my treasure +) ♡

My other presents included a caleb-like bath set, wine, and a bathrobe embroidered with "Kusanagi ★ For Life" It's tucked away safely in my room, adorning the walls right now... Thanks to that, I seem like someone way too into herself ★

Thank you so much, my wonderful friends ♡ ♡


LORD SIRIX...
SERENA...
ゴト
...KEI-CHAN...!

I'M SO SORRY!
THEY SAY THE DRAMA CLUB'S REPRISING ITS PREVIOUS HIT, "MY BELOVED POMPEII," FOR THE CHARITY FUNDRAISER".
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AN EVENT WHERE A SCHOOL SETS UP A BAZAAR AND SHOPS ON CAMPUS AND INVITES THE LOCAL POPULACE, DONATING THE PROCEEDS TO CHARITY.
THAT'S NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT? WHY IS MII APOLOGIZING?
WELL... BECAUSE WHEN WE TRIED TO PUT ON THIS PLAY BEFORE, KEI-CHAN WAS REALLY AGAINST IT.
THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN PLAY THE PART OF SERENA YET...
...BUT WE FOUND SOMEONE TO PLAY
Don't worry, I won't play her
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?

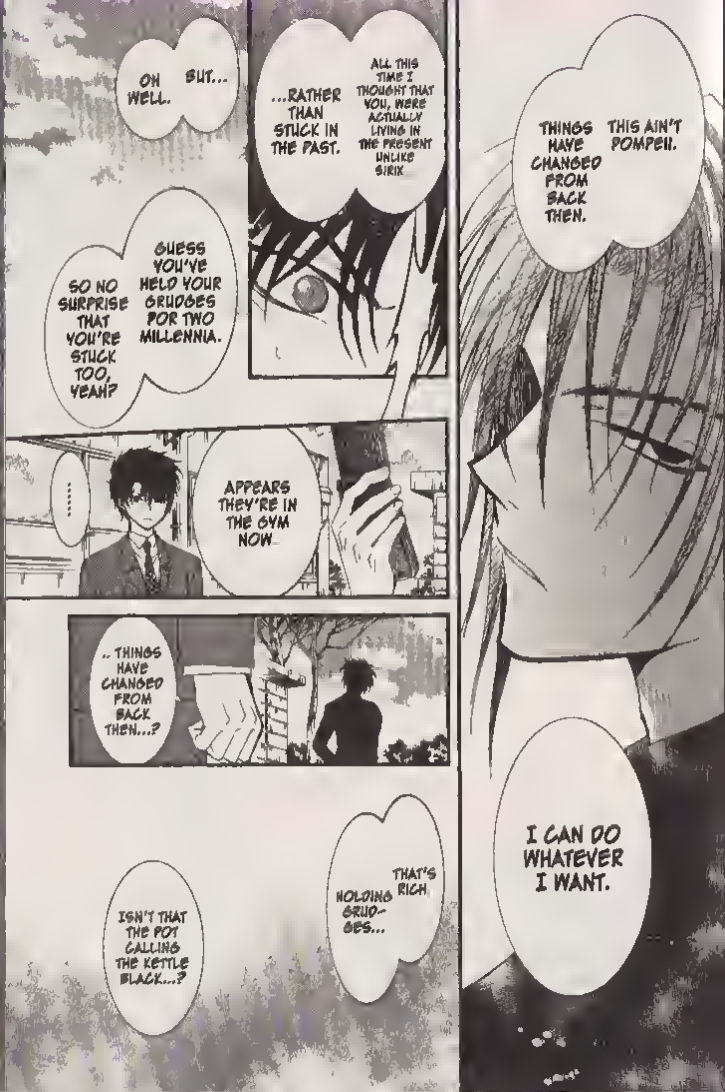
I'M NOT MAD.
THERE'S A VEIN POPPING OUT ON HIS FACE.
KEI-CHAN'S ACTING COOL. DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG
Huh!
...WHY WOULD I BE MAD ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NOPE. NO WAY.
NOPE. NOT MAD. AT ALL.
NOT REALLY... EVEN THOUGH WHEN I PLAYED SIRIUS BEFORE...
SERIZAWA WANTED NO PART IN PLAYING SERENA OPPOSITE ME.
SHE SURE LOOKED MORE THAN HAPPY TO ACT HER HEART OUT OPPOSITE SOMEONE ELSE. OR WHATEVER
AND WAS KIND OF ALL OVER HIM. OR WHATEVER.
HEEY! YUUMA-KUN, WON'T YOU PLAY SERENA AGAIN?
SINCE YOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO LAST TIME

びしっ
I CANNOT LIVE FOR EVEN ONE SECOND IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU.
びしっ
LORD SIRIX! I'LL GLADLY BE YOUR WIFE, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.
ALTHOUGH THERE'S ONE PERSON WRITHING IN AGONY.
BUT THAT'S YOUR FORMER SELF...
A CHICK LIKE THAT IS SO NOT MY THING.
フッ
REALLY?!
I LOVE YOU, SHUNA-CHAN! ♡
SHALL I HELP OUT?
EVERYONE'S SO BUSY, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS TO PUT ON A SHOW TWO DAYS IN A ROW AT THE FUNDRAISER.
YEAH, BUT A CHARITY FUNDRAISER MEANS THEY'RE STAFFING THEIR OWN CLASSES' PROGRAMS, YOU KNOW?
THERE AREN'T OTHER CLUB MEMBERS TO PLAY HER?

I... I'LL...
...NELP TOO...
I LOVE YOU TOO, REINA-CHAN! ♡
I DON'T MIND EITHER.
AWE-SOME! I LOVE YOU, YUUMA-KUN!
WANNA BE SERENA?
NO WAY, NOT THAT.
Ow,
IT'S NOT THAT I'M RELUCTANT TO HELP..
...BUT IF I OFFER NOW, THEN...
WELL...
I DON'T.. MIND HELPING
REALLY?!
IT'S GREAT THAT WE PICKED UP SOME EXTRA MEMBERS! AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO TRY!
...NO "I LOVE YOU, KEI-CHAN!" FOR ME?!
Yess!

HOW MANY WEEKS HAS IT BEEN, HUH?
JUST THOUGHT I'D STOP BY AND SAY HI.
ミシッ.
I'LL START BY CHECKING OUT AGLAIA IN HER SCHOOL UNIFORM...
OH.

Flat
DELOS...
I SURE SEEM TO BUMP INTO YOU A LOT.
SMYRNA.
SIIIHG
AND YOU WERE SUCH A HOTTIE BACK IN THE DAY...
ENOUGH ALREADY.
I'll cut you!
Really nothing there
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I'M HERE TO PICK UP SHUNA AND REINA.
'CAUSE IF YOU LEAVE SHUNA TO HER OWN DEVICES, SHE WINDS UP PENNILESS.
HOW DID YOU, A GUY WHO DID NOTHING BUT SNEER AT THAT SAME AGLAIA...
...WIND UP CLOSE TO SHUNA?
SIRIX SAID THE SAME DAMN THING.
BUT...


THIS AIN'T POMPEII.
THINGS HAVE CHANGED FROM BACK THEN.
I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.
THAT'S RICH
HOLDING GRUDGES...
ISN'T THAT THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK...?
.. THINGS HAVE CHANGED FROM BACK THEN...?
APPEARS THEY'RE IN THE GYM NOW...
.....
SO NO SURPRISE THAT YOU'RE STUCK TOO, YEAH?
GUESS YOU'VE HELD YOUR GRUDGES FOR TWO MILLENNIA.
OH WELL. BUT...
...RATHER THAN STUCK IN THE PAST.
ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT THAT YOU, WERE ACTUALLY LIVING IN THE PRESENT UNLIKE SIRIX

IT'S A PROMISE, SERENA.
IF I WIN THIS COMPETITION...
...YOU'LL ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL.
WHILE I WANT TO TELL YOU TO NOT GET A SWELLED HEAD JUST FROM DEFEATING A WIMPY LION...
...A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.
Playing Serena
SHUNA
I SHALL ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL!!

THIS MAGGOT...
Playing Smyrna
YUUMA
BIG BRO-THER!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST, HUH? TRYING TO WIN SERENA WHEN YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A LOSER.
Playing Aria
REINA
...WON ON A FLUKE.
I SHALL TURN YOU INTO LION FEED!

SOUICHI!
SHI... SHINOGU-SAN?!
HOOOOOLD ON A MINUTE!!
NG
Please wait a little.
I SEE. YOU'RE DOING A PLAY ABOUT POMPEII FOR A CHARITY FUNDRAISER...
AND... TO KEEP IT ENTERTAINING, YOU WANT TO MAKE IT A DIFFERENT PLAY EACH TIME...
...BY SHUFFLING THE CAST AROUND.
WHERE DO I EVEN BEGIN HERE?
FIRST OF ALL...
NO EXCUSES!!
WHY ARE YOU NODING IT?
WHY IS THERE A "SMYRNA" IN THIS PLAY...
YOU... YOU SPILLED THE BEANS.
About me
But
BUT SERIZAWA'S KNOWN FOR A WHILE NOW THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED, SHINOGU-SAN, SO--

LOOK! THERE'S EVEN A SILVER LINING.
Aren't you happy?
Shes easy to play
I MIGHT LIKE SMYRNA.
I wanted to keep my manly image, so I was reluctant to tell
DON'T DO THAT.
I KINDA TOTALLY GET THAT YOU'RE SERENA'S ELDER SISTER AND A VOLUPTUOUS BEAUTY, KAGAMI-SENSEI.
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY ANXIOUS ABOUT PROPOSING TO SHUNA-SAN...
I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY, BUT SHUNA AIN'T SERENA.
PLUS I'M GETTING THE SHOT SEAT OUT OF ME BY TWO SERENA LOOKALIKES...
Totally not her
So sad
What's new about that?
...HEY.
WHY DOES EVERYONE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IN THIS STORY?

THAT ORIGINAL STORY IS "THE TALE OF POMPEII'S WORST GLADIATOR."
UH! I USED AN EXISTING STORY--
The paper theater from when he was student teaching
IT IS NOT!
...IS SOOO COOL!
YEAH, YEAH, AND WE'RE HUGE FANS OF IT..
THIS... THIS STORY IS A GRAND EPIC ROMANCE BASED ON HISTORICAL FACT!
HUH? DIDN'T KEIDAI MAKE IT...
WOW! BUT THE SIRIX IN THIS STORY...
COOL!
COOL!
COOL!
COOL!
COOL!
COOL!
COOL!
COOL! OUR SIRIX MAN IS COOL!
SIRIX IS COOL.
.. WHAT WAS THAT NOW?

Normally, I have no idea of how my readers regard my work or even what they think of it outside of reading their fan letters

At first I thought, I wonder if any reader gods will actually visit me at my signing event. But when I went there, there were so many of you there with lots of warm messages and presents and I thought, "Wow, there really are people out there who read my comics!" When you're stuck in a room all day working, you just don't get a good sense of what's going on without meeting and greeting live readers

I'm so blessed

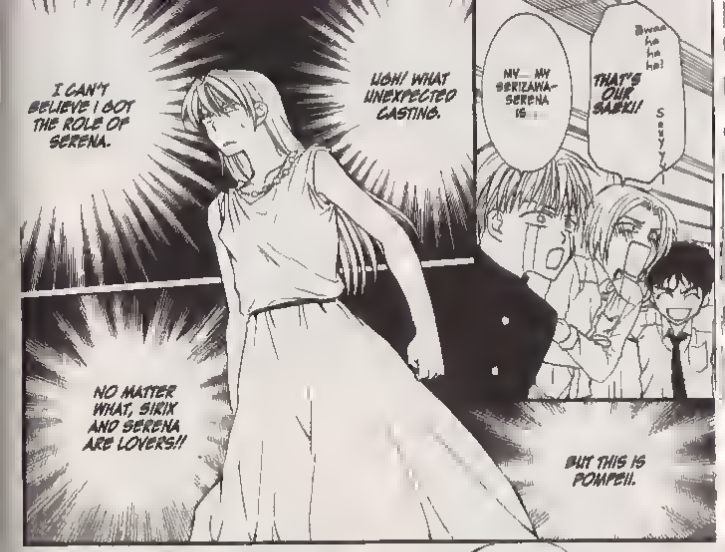
ALL RIGHT! WHILE YOU MAY ALL HAVE YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS...
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT TO ME?
SERENA'S CUTE HERSELF!!
IF YOU'D LIKE, KAGAMI-SENSEI AND MIKAGE-SAN MAY PARTICIPATE TOO.
LOTS?
...LET'S DECIDE ON PARTS BY DRAWING LOTS, TO BE FAIR.
BEST FRIENDS
LOLEUS
BEST FRIENDS
ARIA
SERENA
LOVERS
SIRIX
SIBLINGS
SISTERS
SMYRNA
BEST FRIENDS
AGLAIA
LADY AND RETAINER
THIS IS THE CHARACTER RELATION MAP
AS A GENERAL RULE, ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR ROLE, AD-LIB OR DO WHATEVER TO CARRY IT OUT.
SINCE WE'RE EXPERIMENTING HERE, IT'S ANYTHING GOES.

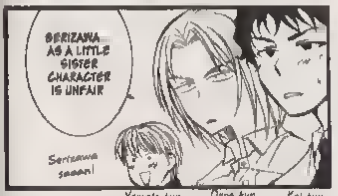
WANNA SEE SHIINA AS AGLAIA.
YUUMA AS SERENA...
THE HONEST TRUE LOVE STORY OF SIRIX AND SERENA...
AND IF IT'S ENTERTAINING, WE'LL PERFORM IT AT THE CHARITY FUNDRAISER.
もん
もん
もん
No particular wants
.....
WHATEVER'S ENTERTAINING!
AS SIRIX THE GLADIATOR...
LIKE... SOUICHI AND ME AS SIRIX AND SERENA...
ゴ
ゴゴ
ONE, TWO, AND!
OH NO!

HEY GUYS, I HEARD KAGAMI-SENSEI'S IN THE GYM!
YAMATO! I HEARD THE DRAMA CLUB'S DOING THE POMPEII PLAY RIGHT NOW.
NO WAY!
WHAT? A SERIZAWA-SERENA, AGAIN?!
!!!
WHAT?!
SAEKI'S IN THE GYM, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRACTICING FOR SOME PLAY!
what are you two Saeki's groupies?
IS SAEKI HERE?
KAGAMI-SENSEI! ♡
SERIZAWA-SAAAN!
SERENA.
IT'S A PROMISE.

IF I WIN THIS COMPETI-TION...
...YOU'LL BE MINE.
SIRIX
A GLADIATOR WITH A HEART OF GOLD
SOUICHI MIKAGE
WHO... WHO IS THAT?!
Swoooon
HE'S SERIOUSLY HOT!
HIS FRAME'S WAY TOO BIG, EH?
YES.
LORD SIRIX...

I GLADLY ACCEPT...
...IF YOU'LL HAVE ME...!
SERENA THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN TOWN. KEIOAI SAEKI
OH! HOW CRUEL, LORD SIRIX!
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM ME.
げし


I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT THE ROLE OF SERENA.
UGH! WHAT UNEXPECTED CASTING.
MY__MY SERIZAWA-SERENA IS__
Bwaa ha ha ha!
THAT'S OUR SASU!!
Suuy...
NO MATTER WHAT, SIRIX AND SERENA ARE LOVERS!!
BUT THIS IS POMPEII.


SERIZAWA AS A LITTLE SISTER CHARACTER IS UNFAIR
Serizawa saaan!
Yamato kun
Ozora kun
Kai kun

WHOA THERE!!
IF I'M ABOUT TO MAKE THE LIKES OF THAT MY BRIDE, I'LL MARRY YOU INSTEAD.

BIG BRO-THER!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE TO BE NICE TO MISS SERENA
ARIA
SIRIX'S LITTLE SISTER.
MII SERIZAWA

WHAAA?!
OOHH!
ARIA...
YOU KEEP GETTING CUTER AND CUTER, DON'T YOU?
IS IT THE TABOO SIBLING LOVE ROUTE THIS TIME?!
YOUR ODDITY... ER, LOVER, IS SERENA, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, MY STUPID BEST FRIEND!
LOLEUS
SIRIX'S GOOD CONFIDANT
YUUMA UJOH

LORD SIRIX!!
NO NEED.
IF IT WERE AT LEAST AS CUTE AS YOU, I MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE IT A KISS, BUT...
AS IF! AND UNHAND SERI... ARIA!
LOLEUS! YOU WANT SOME ATTENTION TOO?
YOU CAN'T MARRY YOUR SISTER OR YOUR BEST FRIEND!
YEAH, I'M GONNA GO WITH A BIG "NO" ON OUR MARRIAGE AFTER ALL. I'M GOOD WITH THESE TWO.
YOU BIG C-H-E-A-T-E-R! ♡ I'M THE ONLY ONE FOR YOU, REMEMBER?
MAGGOT!!
THAT'S...
THIS WASN'T SO RARE IN POMPEII, WAS IT?
BRING ON THE TABOOS.

KAGAMI-SENSEI!!
Eeeee!!
ER... ELDER SISTER.
I SHALL TURN YOU INTO LION FEED.
DON'T HIT LORD SIRIX! I LOVE LORD SIRIX...
SMYRNA
A MAN-HATING, PEERLESS BEAUTY
SHIHOGU KAGAMI
LIKE HELL YOU'RE MY LITTLE SISTER.
WHY DO YOU HIT ME, ELDER SISTER?
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT THAT! IT WAS DECIDED BY LOTS, YOU KNOW!
GAAAHHH!!

NOW THEN.
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN OF OUR OWN?
YOU'VE BEEN A BIT CREEPY LATELY, BIG BROTHER.
AS LONG AS IT'S ENTERTAINING, RIGHT? WELL, THE GALLERY'S GOING WILD.
Really?
THAT'S ENOUGH
IS LOLEUS IN LOVE WITH ARIA?

How funny.
...BULL'S-EYE? THIS IS SURE COMPLICATED, SIRIX.
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE IGNORING THE CHARACTER RELATIONS...
N-NO!
SO THEN START BY STEPPING DOWN FROM SERENA.
All banged up from being dragged
THAT'S RIGHT, LOLEUS THE CHARACTER RELATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.
IT MUST BE QUITE NICE TO HAVE A WOMAN ON EACH ARM.
SIRIX!
I CAME TO CONGRATULATE YOUR NUPTIALS TODAY...
AGLAIA
SIRIX'S RESPECTED MASTER.
REINA SAKAKIBARA

I...
...SWEAR MY ALLEGIANCE TO YOU, LADY AGLAIA.
I'VE BROKEN MY ENGAGEMENT TO SERENA.
LORD SIRIX, DON'T JUST BREAK IT!
ALLE-GIANCE TO AGLAIA... HUH.
THIS GUY...
BUT YOU PROMISED ME THAT YOU'D MAKE ME YOUR WIFE IF YOU DEFEATED A LION...
I WON'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!
SHOULD THIS DEVELOPMENT BE WORKED INTO THE REAL PLAY THEN SIRIX AND SERENA WILL BREAK UP...!!
HUH! SO HE DOESN'T PLAN TO MARRY ME NO MATTER WHAT, HUH?
↑ A STRANGE WAY OF PHRASING IT.

IF YOU WIN THE COMPETITION, I'LL RECOGNIZE YOU AS MY WIFE.
That's new
SERENA WOULD FIGHT?
BUT FOR GRACEFUL SERENA TO SCUFFLE...
WHAT.
WELL, THEN YOU WIN A COMPETITION TOO.
OH, WOW! A DUEL?! I WOULDN'T MIND PLAYING A SERENA THAT FIGHTS!
HMM, HMM. A SERENA THAT FIGHTS, HUH?
Mama mia
SO HE SAYS.
STUPID SERENA!
I UNDERSTAND. I SHOULD FIGHT YOU, LORD SIRIX?
I AIN'T FIGHTIN' YOU.
IF WE'RE TALKING FIGHTING IN A COMPETITION, THERE'S YOUR OPPONENT, YEAH?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHUNA-SAN HASN'T MADE AN APPEARANCE YET...
Who is she?
IT IS NOW MY TURN!
I SHALL NOT LOSE, NO MATTER WHO IT IS!

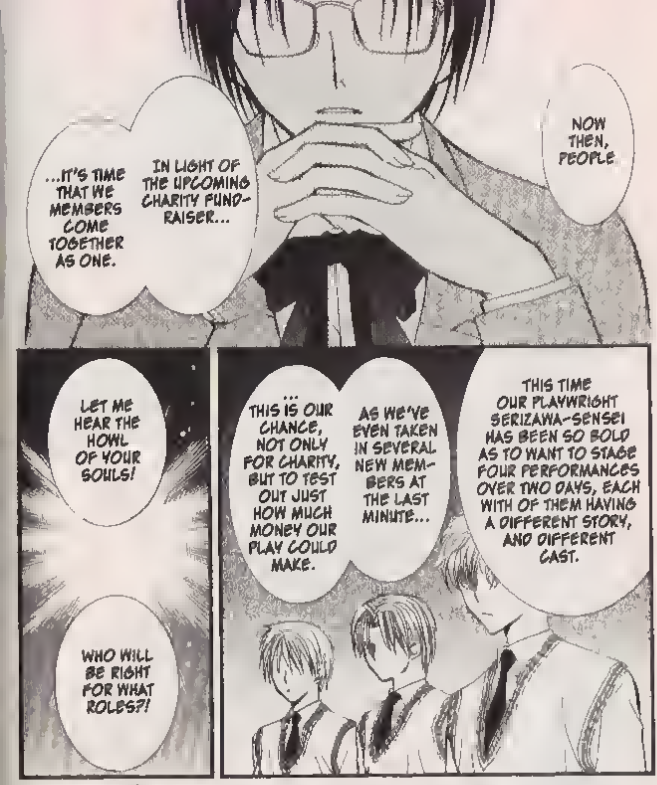
HOW BRAVE YOU ARE...
ガー
...TO PLAN TO WIN AGAINST ME.
ペッ
THE LION-KIN

SERIZA-WAAAA
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
HMM, WHAT SHALL I DO...?
SERIOUSLY, DON'T!
DON'T USE THE SCENARIO FROM THAT PLAY, OKAY?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S MET THEM.
WELL... SHE WAS REALLY STRONG, BUT...
Mumble mumble
WELL, LIKE HOW THE REAL SIRIX ONLY HAD EYES FOR SERENA, AND SERENA WOULDN'T FIGHT.
I CAN'T WIN...
I... I LOST.
FIND OUT AT THE CHARITY FUND-RAISER!
OKAY THEN, EVERYONE. WILL SERENA GET SAFELY MARRIED?!

WELL, I'M GOING BACK TO CLASS.
YO, UJOH, COME HELP US GET READY FOR THE FUND-RAISER.
DON'T WORRY, KEI-CHAN.
I WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING...
...THAT'D SULLY YOUR PAST LIFE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S YOUR PAST LIFE TOO, YOU KNOW.

NGライフ

scene26


NOW THEN, PEOPLE
IN LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING CHARITY FUND-RAISER...
...IT'S TIME THAT WE MEMBERS COME TOGETHER AS ONE.
THIS TIME OUR PLAYWRIGHT SERIZAWA-SENSEI HAS BEEN SO BOLD AS TO WANT TO STAGE FOUR PERFORMANCES OVER TWO DAYS, EACH WITH OF THEM HAVING A DIFFERENT STORY, AND DIFFERENT CAST.
AS WE'VE EVEN TAKEN IN SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS AT THE LAST MINUTE...
...THIS IS OUR CHANCE, NOT ONLY FOR CHARITY, BUT TO TEST OUT JUST HOW MUCH MONEY OUR PLAY COULD MAKE.
LET ME HEAR THE HOWL OF YOUR SOULS!
WHO WILL BE RIGHT FOR WHAT ROLES?!

I received so many presents from my signing event ♥ Flowers and candy (Valentine chocolate, too♥), my favorite WachiField goods, Studio Ghibli goods, a handmade Strix Man bear (laughs), tea, a handmade cell phone strap, a scarf, a cushion, stuffed animals, bath stuff, instant noodles, jam, a spoon, NG Life fan-mix mini discs and mini discs filled with thoughts about me and my works. And letters ♥

I love them all!! Thank you!!

DENIED.
KEIOAI SABKI FOR SERENA?
DENIED
SERIZAWA-SENSEI? SERENA?
S-S-SERI-ZAWA FOR SERENA
SECON-DED!
MADAM PRESIDENT!! SHUNA SAKAKIBARA MUST PLAY SERENA!!
Yes!
Yes!
Yes!
BUT IT'LL BE ENTER-TAINING ...
THE STUDENTS OF SEIBU ACADEMY FIND THEM-SELVES BUSY WITH PREPA-RATIONS.
AS THEIR CHARITY FUND-RAISER DRAWS NEAR..
OKAY, THEN SHUNA SAKAKIBARA WILL BE OUR SERENA FOR ONE DAY!
THAT'S WHAT MY PARENTS SAY.
YES, IT IS ...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
Both parents are mangaka.
Sigh.
We'll get to eat some homemade udon soup too!
Quite a wonderful event
A CHARITY FUNDRAISER IS AN EVENT WHERE A SCHOOL SETS UP A BAZAAR AND ENTER-TAINMENT ...
...AND INVITES THE LOCAL POPULACE, DONATING THE PROCEEDS TO CHARITY.

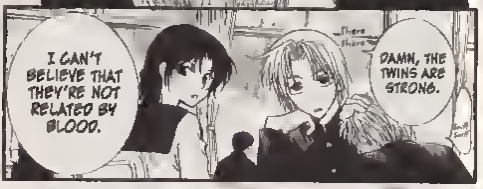
3-1
UUUU...
...
JOOOH!
AND EVERY-ONE GETS QUITE WORKED UP OVER JUST HOW MUCH MONEY THEY'LL RAISE AND THINGS LIKE THAT.
ALL THE CLUBS AND SPONSORS PARTI-CIPATE.
Seiki Academy
CHARITY FUNDRAISER
11895
WE'VE JUST PASSED THE 1 MILLION YEN MARK!!
Prime 24-Hour TV
NO.
ぴら、
NOW NOW, PRETTY LADY!
ALL WE NEED IS FOR YOU TO WEAR THIS THE DAY OF AND BE OUR SALESGIRL.
ARE YOU INSANE?
Who you callin' a lady?
BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN SAID ANYTHING.
NOTHING GOOD CAN COME OF YOU TWO APPROACH-ING ME WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE.

COME ON! YOU'RE SO CUTE, UJOH!
NOT HELPING.
YOU'LL TOTALLY DRAW IN CUSTOMERS.
OKAY, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! ♡
NOT HELPING.
NOT HELPING!!
SINCE OUR CLASS IS DOING A BAZAAR WITH HANDMADE GOODS...
...CAN'T WE GET YOU TO MAKE US AT LEAST ONE THING, UJOH?
OKAY, THEN MAKE SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE BAZAAR.
MATSUO ...
I MADE A CUSHION, DIDN'T I?!
LOOK, UJOH, YOU'RE NOT HELPING HERE SO PUT ON THE DAMN SKIRT AND BE OUR SALESGIRL.
LIKE WE COULD SELL THAT MURDEROUS CUSHION FULL OF PINS!
Hasimarking, pins stuck inside? from when he sewed it

HMM?
YAMATO... YOU KNEW IT WOULD BACKFIRE ON YOU, SO WHY...
UJOH'S SO COOL ...
Has the strongest kid in the class
DAMMIT! THEN I'LL START FROM SCRATCH AGAIN!
HEY.
It's your style right?
WE BROUGHT IT FOR YOU AND UJOH TO WEAR!
IT'S OUR BAZAAR SALESGIRL OUTFIT.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S SOOOO CUTE! ♡
BUT THAT'S FOR GIRLS!
Since you have a gorgeous face like mine but mean wearing boring outfits.
I WANT YOU TO WEAR THIS KINDA STUFF.
YUUMA! PUT THIS ON AND TAKE A PICTURE.
HEY!
...HEY.

I met so many different people at my signing event I thought it would mainly be students, but there were a lot of folks in their 20s-30s, so that made me really happy And people the same age as me...

In Volume 4, I asked if there were any male readers out there and yes, there are! Some even showed up too!! I was sooo happy Since NG's main character is a male, I really wanted to hear a male perspective about my comic as well I'm not very good at making conversation so at the time I wasn't able to relay my feelings to everyone but to everyone that came to see me and who thought about wanting to come see me, just thank you so so much!!



I WAS STUNNED WHEN REINA FIRST TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL.
WITH THAT FACE YOU'D THINK SHE'D BE AT LEAST BE UJOH'S COUSIN, IF NOT HIS TWIN.
THE ONLY OTHER THING I CAN THINK OF IS THAT THEY WERE ALREADY RELATED IN A PAST LIFE.

DON'T WORRY, KEI-CHAN.
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING THAT'D SULLY YOUR PAST LIFE.
A PAST LIFE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S YOUR PAST LIFE TOO, YOU KNOW.
NOTHING.
...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. MUST'VE MISHEARD IT.
...HEY.
THOSE TWO ARE OFTEN TALKING IN SECRET.
WHAT?
WHA? OF COURSE NOT
ARE PAST LIVES AND STUFF THINGS YOU NORMALLY REMEMBER?

BUT I THINK ABOUT IT, AND IT'S LIKE REINA AND EVEN MIKAGE WHO WE JUST MET...
I'D PRETEND LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW
LIKE IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
. ARE HAVING A CONVERSATION I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT.
AND IT'S NOT EVEN THAT I'M DISLIKED...
...OR THAT I'M BEING OSTRACIZED.
THERE'S SOMETHING WHERE I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE DARK.
AND WITH THAT ONE THING ALONE

IF I W-W-WIN THIS C-C-COMPETITION...
...Y-YOU'LL...
I--IT...
IT'S A PROMISE.
SOMEHOW...
...MY...
ACCEPT...
PROPOSAL...!
...P-P-P--
SE..SERENA...
NOW, NOW, NOW.
IF A GUY PROPOSED TO ME IN SUCH A LAME WAY, I'D TOTALLY SLAP HIM DOWN.
BU...BUT.
MADAM PRESIDENT!

キラキラ
THE THOUGHT OF A BEAUTY LIKE HER AS MY BRIDE...!
I GET SO NERVOUS...!
CALM DOWN!! THIS IS A PLAY!
PERHAPS THIS ROLE IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME AFTER ALL?
NO WAY, SHIINA-CHAN, YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
ポ
HEY.
URGH! WE'LL MOVE YOU TO THE SECOND DAY!
WE'LL ASK SAEKI-KUN TO PLAY THE FIRST DAY'S SIRIX!
Hmmm!
I'LL PROBABLY GET JUST AS NERVOUS AROUND SHIINA-SAN.
HOW'S THE PLAY?
HMM! SO FAR, SO GOOD. NOTHING MAJOR.

THERE'S NO... ...CONNECTION.
...AND SIRIX AND SERENA UNABLE TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISE TO REUNITE RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, THIS STORY, ENDS WITH THE VOLCANO ERUPTING ...
HEY, IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SERENA ..THAT POPS UP IN THIS STORY AND YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND SERENA?
WELL! UH! I WONDER
FOR ME, AS LONG AS SERENA'S GOOD, THAT'S...
SERENA ...
YOU'RE ...ALL ABOUT SERENA, HUH
IT POPS UP AT RANDOM.
THE NAME OF THIS WOMAN I DON'T KNOW.
WELL ...
...IT ALWAYS BOTHERED ME.

LIKE, WHERE WAS SIRIX HEADED THAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT HE'D LEAVE SERENA BEHIND?
WHERE THE HELL WAS LOLEUS?
WHAT ABOUT SERENA'S BIG SISTER SMYRNA?
AND...
Y'KNOW ...
...ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS.

I WONDER WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HER MIND.
SERENA WAS ALONE IN A DARK HOUSE.
SERENA.
SERENA, LEFT BEHIND...
...ALL ALONE.
...JUST A LITTLE...
SOMEHOW..
...IT'S LIKE ME NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH.. NOTHING ...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
KEIDAI?
HEY, SO AFTER-WARDS...

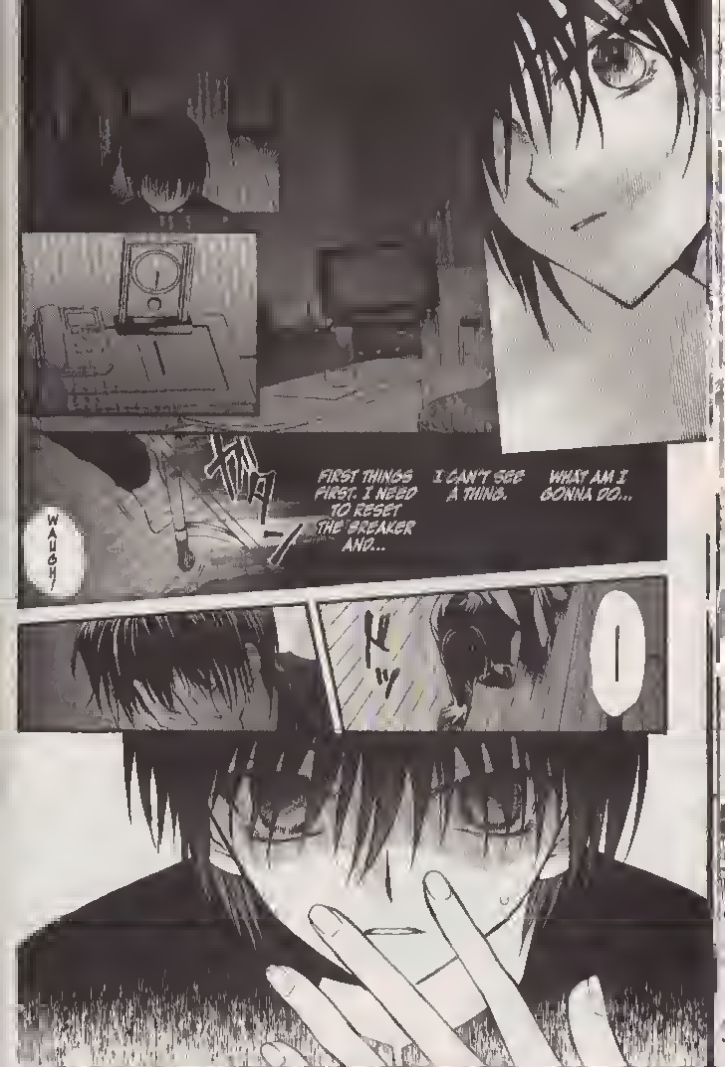
SIRIX...
...TRULY IS...
...A HORRIBLE PERSON.

I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...
YEAH...
KEIDAI!
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.
SIRIX TRULY IS A HORRIBLE PERSON.
BUT I WASN'T REALLY BLAMING SIRIX...
ガチャ
WHA... WHAT THE HECK? ARE MOM AND DAD...
...STILL AT WORK?

Flick
Flick
Flick
Flick
Flick
...PHEW
Turns on everything that's alight
...DARKNESS FREAKED ME OUT.
I WAS AFRAID TO BE ALONE IN THE DARK.
AS FAR BACK AS I CAN RE-MEMBER
SORRY FOR WASTING ELECTRI-CITY...

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY PARENTS BOTH WORKED...
YUUMA, CALL ME IF YOU'RE ALONE.
...SO SHINOBU-NII-CHAN WOULD STAY WITH ME, BUT...
I BET NII-CHAN'S WORKING LATE AT HIS PART-TIME JOB AGAIN TODAY...
'CAUSE I'LL COME RUSHING TO YOUR SIDE!
BECAUSE I FELT LIKE I'D BE TRAPPED IN THE DARKNESS AND NEVER SEE THE PEOPLE I CARED ABOUT AGAIN.
I'M SCARED ALONE.
THAT'S WHY I WONDER...
...WHAT SERENA WAS THINKING IN THE DARK...
...WHEN SHE WAS ALONE IN THE END.
SHIVER

I'LL PUT ON A CD!
AN UPBEAT ONE.
BESIDES, I AIN'T GOT THE TIME TO BE ALL DOWN!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE ANOTHER CUSHION TO SELL AT THE BAZAAR.
THIS IS NOTHING!
I'M OFF MY GAME TODAY!
WHA-- WHY AM I GETTING ALL DOWN?
Black
out
Beep beep
AND TURN ON THE HEAT...
...TURNING ON TOO MANY THINGS...
I TRIPPED THE BREAKER...


WAUGH!
FIRST THINGS FIRST. I NEED TO RESET THE BREAKER AND...
I CAN'T SEE A THING.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO...

Clunk.
...HELP ME...!!
Twitch.
Creak
Creak.
...HUH?
SOMEONE'S HERE..?
BUT I LOCKED THE DOOR.
B d u m p.
I CAN'T STOP SHAKING.
SOMEONE.
SOMEONE.
I'M... SCARED.
I'M... SCARED.
SOMEONE.
I'M... SCARED.
SOMEONE...

TAKE THIS...
UNLESS THEY BROKE IN BEFORE I GOT HOME...?!
THIEF!
GAH!
WAIT, WAIT! YUUMA!!
YOU THINK I CAN'T FIGHT BACK...
WA!--
YOU COWARD!!
AND WHEN SOME-ONE'S AT HIS WEAKEST!
YOU! YOU BASTARD!

IT'S ME!
ME!!
KEI-DAI!
KEI... DAI?
WHEN... DID YOU BREAK IN...
A stalker?
JUST NOW! I CAME IN THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW!
It wasn't locked!
SINCE ALL THE LIGHTS IN THIS HOUSE SUDDENLY WENT OFF, I GOT WORRIED AND CAME OVER.
...
...I--
I'M SO RELIEV-ED..
ペたん
IT WAS SO DARK..
..I WAS ALONE..
...I... SOME-HOW...

LORD SIRIX.
...FELT LIKE I WOULDN'T GET OUT OF HERE...
...WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER.
I SHALL...

WHOA!
YOU SCARED ME!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR FACE?!
THIS IS YOUR HANDI-WORK!
SO? WHAT'S UP?
YOUR CUSHION FOR THE BAZAAR, WAS IT?
YES. YOUR SAFETY IS WHAT MATTERS.
I HAD TO FIGHT BACK!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME IN THE DARK.
Here you go a first aid kit

DON'T CRY.

IT'S OKAY.

WHY IS HE CRYING?

BUT I TOLD HIM I WAS RELIEVED.

I THINK IT'S FINE THE WAY IT IS, BUT EVERYONE SAID IT'S BAD.
YUUMA-KUN! THERE ARE PINS STICKING OUT OF THIS THING?!
It's more like a giant spinach plant
IF I DON'T MAKE A DECENT ONE, I'LL GET STUCK AS A SALESGIRL WITH REINA.
(Dressed as a girl)
BUT ...
...I'M GONNA REDO IT, SO IT'S OKAY.
SO I'M OKAY.
...YOU CAN GO HOME.
...I'LL FIX THIS FOR YOU.
YOU WANNA COME OVER?
...YEAH!
SERENA, LEFT BEHIND, ALL ALONE

THAT STORY FLICKERED THROUGH MY MIND
WHY DID KEIDAI HAVE SUCH A PAINED EXPRESSION
WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE ENDING OF THE STORY?
NOOOO...
MORE!
WHAT THE? SOULMATE?
YOUR SOULMATE UJOH'S DOING HIS BEST RIGHT NOW TOO, REINA.
Sleeping over at Mutou's house!
COME ON. IT'S BEEN DECIDED, STOP GRUMBLING.
I'LL HELP YOU, OKAY?
I'LL EVEN DONATE CLOTHES OR ACCESSORIES, SO WHY ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE HAND-MADE?
Could you try to have fun?
I said I'd be a salesgirl!
WE'RE NOT TIED AT ALL!
!
LIKE A COMPANION WHOSE SOUL IS TIED TO YOURS FROM A PAST LIFE.
Or some thing

WHAT ARE YOU SO UPSET ABOUT? I WAS KIDDING.
WELL, I HATE STUFF LIKE THAT.
LIKE PAST LIVES, AND TIES BETWEEN SOULS.
IT'S IDIOTIC.
OH?
IF YOU TRIED SEEING YOUR PAST LIFE, YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND.
SEE IT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
I'VE SEEN MY OWN.
WHAAAAT?!
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN...
...HOW TO SEE YOUR PAST LIFE?

"NEVER EVER LET GO
OF WHAT'S DEAREST
TO YOU."

THE WORDS THAT SOMEONE
GAVE ME IN A DREAM
GENTLY GUIDE ME EVEN NOW.

WHO...?

I THINK ABOUT IT,
AND IT GROWS DIM.

AS IF TO SAY
THAT KNOWING
IS NOT NECESSARY

NGライフ

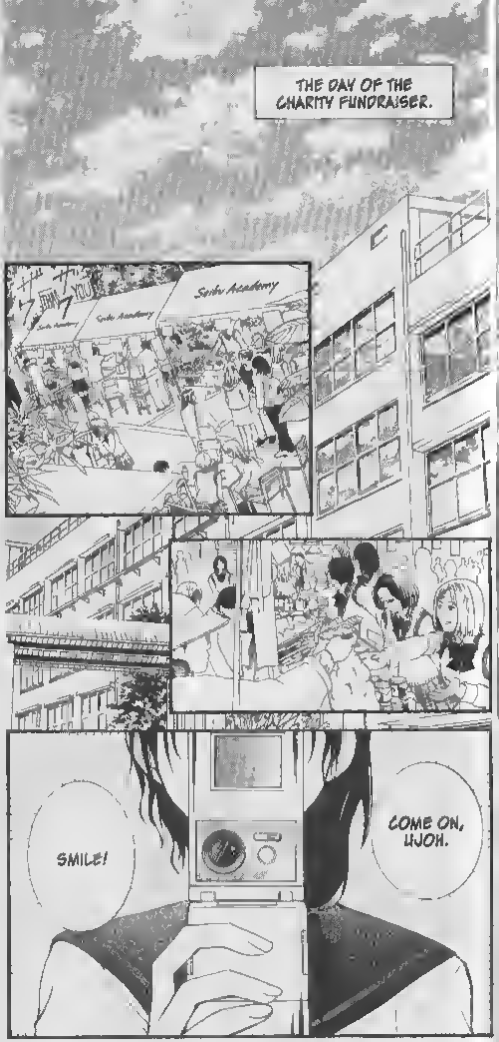
NGライフ
scene27

After my signing event, my handlers were kind enough to take me to Yokohamas Chinatown, but because my heart and belly were so full of excitement, I could hardly eat anything What a waste

I finally get to go to the Chinatown of my dreams and couldn't eat a thing I'm so sorry to everyone who took the time to escort me there But the next time we go to Yokohama, I promise there'll be revenge

Also, I'd like to send a big, big thanks to everyone who helped make the signing event happen!! (And to the staff of the Animate where it was held!)

And now, back in Kumamoto, I continue my day to day of drawing manga I plan on putting my normally lacking brain into full operation and bringing you all a fun and entertaining comic!



INSANE. IT'S INSANE HOW WELL THAT SUITS HIM.
Oh, hey!
NO POUTING! NOT WHEN YOU'RE SO CUTE!
むす
I BROUGHT A PRODUCT FOR THE BAZAAR LIKE I SHOULD, YOU KNOW.
WHY AM I A SALESGIRL?
WITH ITS FLUFFY MANE AND ITS METICULOUS WOOLEN TAIL...
TOO CUTE.
THIS LION CUSHION IS REALLY CUTE...
YES, AND THAT'S IT.

IT WASN'T MY MOTHER! I HAD MY LOSER (KEIOAI) NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR MAKE IT FOR ME!
EVEN WORSE!
YOU CHEATED AND HAD YOUR MOTHER MAKE IT FOR YOU, DIDN'T YOU?!
LIKE YOU'RE CAPABLE OF SUCH ARTISTRY!!
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
LET US DREAM FOR A MOMENT!!
IN FACT, STAY LIKE THAT FOREVER!
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE A GALES-GIRL!!
GAH!
...SHE'S HERE.
I thought she said she'd be a galesgirl
WHAT ABOUT HER?
IF YOU MEAN REINA ...

WHAT'S UP? I THOUGHT YOU WERE MERCHANDISE.
NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NOTHING
スッ
IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR.
HOLD ...
I THOUGHT THERE WAS A REASON ..
...I WAS BORN WITH THIS FACE ...
I WAS SUCH A FOOL
...TO HOPE AGAINST HOPE ..
HUH?
NOW, NOW, TWINS, DON'T FLIRT.
HELLOOO?

AKI...!
HEY! DO THAT TO ME ONE MORE TIME.
I'LL BE FINE THIS TIME.
REINA ..
"THAT"?
OH, JUST SOME-THING.
HEY.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. THAT HAS ITS OWN TEN-DENCIES.
JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S NOT...
I DON'T CARE!
ONE MORE TIME!

WAKAGI, SALESGIRLS HAVE TO WEAR DRESSES.
A woman's world is incomprehensible to man
かぽっ
WASN'T THAT CONVERSATION JUST NOW KINDA SKETCHY?
NAO'S LEFT. USE HIM
WAI... WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE SALESGIRLS...
..VERY WELL, COME WITH ME.
"Use him"
Gyaaah!
SAKAKIBARA! CALL ME MASTER, JUST FOR FUN. ♡
HEY HEY, REINA, LET'S TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER.
DID MY CANDLE SELL?
YOU'RE SO LUCKY! THAT LOOK TOTALLY SUITS YOU, REIHA.
REINA, YOU'RE SOOO CUTE! ♡
DO I REALLY LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE HER?
SO.
IT WAS A MISTAKE. NOT TO STOP REINA FROM GOING.
SAKAKIBARA!

SAKAKIBARA! TELL ME WHEN SERIZAWA-SAN SHOWS UP.
ぴくっ
N-O.
WHY ...?
BECAUSE ...
...I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU UP, YAMATO!
Whaaaat?!
WA HA HA. I'M GONNA DO WHATEVER I WANT.
What she gets for ditching
REINA-CHAN.
DO YOU LIKE YAMATO-KUN?
YEAH!
SERIZAWA-SA...!
OH, KEI-CHAN, OVER HERE.
UH... BUT...
What about Mikuya-san?
ぴしっ

Three Spins
<3 <3 <3
SUDDENLY SERENA...!
KEI-CHAN...?

SORRY! UNTIL LATER, REINA-CHAN.
OKAAAY!
COME HERE A SEC.
SERI-ZAWA!
HOW ..
THEY WERE CALLING YOU REINA.
..WHY AREN'T YOU DENYING IT?
WELL...
Serena as a makeup!
YUU-MA.
HOW DID I KNOW?
THAT IT WAS ME.
HOW'D YOU KNOW?

OH.
WELCOME!
SOOOO CUTE!♡ SOOOO CUTE!♡
ドン
YOU CAME. BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD WORK TODAY.
I'D COME VISIT ANY DAY OF THE WEEK FOR YOU, YUUMA.
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME
YOU SURE ARE CUTE...
...YUUMA.
...MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KNEW IT WAS ME.
WELL, YEAH. WE'RE FRIENDS FROM THE PAS--
YOU'RE YOU, YUUMA. THE WORLD'S ONE AND ONLY YUUMA!!

DUDE, DON'T BE BLABBING ABOUT UNRELATED STUFF.
YEAH! EVEN IF YOU BRING THAT SORT OF STUFF UP TO YUUMA, HE JUST THINKS YOU'RE WEIRD.
WHO CARES? NOT LIKE IF I SAID SOMETHING...
... ANYTHING WOULD COME OUT OF IT ANYHOW.
IT'S EVEN MORE UNNATURAL TO BE WHISPERING ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW
WELL ...
MAYBE IT'LL EVEN BRING HIS MEMORIES BACK...
HE DOESN'T NEED THAT.
YUUMA DOESN'T NEED MEMORIES ...
...OF HIS PAST LIFE.
KEI-CHAAAN!

SHUNA-CHAN'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!!
SOME-THING'S HAPPENED! COULD YOU COME WITH ME?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
JUST COME WITH ME!!
WHAT?! BUT HOW ON EARTH.
LOVE YA, MAN.
OH, SOR...
YAMATO
WHA? SAKAKIBARA, WHERE ARE
I BETTER GO ..
Grab

UH--
UH--
UH--
Could it be
RETURN SHUNA SAKAKIBARA TO US!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT.
THAT'S A WEIRD PRETEXT FOR A FIGHT...
ドカッ!!
UJOH!!
YAMATO, WAS UJOH MEAN TO YOU AGAIN?
DO YOU WANT ME TO BE TURNED INTO LION FEED?
ELDER SISTER, THAT LINE MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE A LUNATIC.
ガッ!!

OOOOHHHHHH
WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING HERE?
SHU... SHUHA-CHAN.
THEY SUDDENLY DRESSED ME UP LIKE THIS. .
SAKAKIBARA-SAN, DON'T COME OUT YET!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, TEA CEREMONY CLUB?!
FOR-GIVE US ..
WE HAVE A SHORTAGE OF CAPABLE HELPERS FOR OUR FORMAL TEA PARTY THIS AFTERNOON.
WE'VE INVITED MANY GUESTS TO HOLD THE FORMAL TEA PARTY.
A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO-CLAD LADY WITH A TASTE FOR THE TEA CEREMONY IS QUITE VALUABLE.

RIGHT?! ELEGANT LADIES ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR BRINGING IN CUSTOMERS!
HM HM HM. THAT SILHOUETTE REALLY IS HARD TO BEAT.
TEA?
OH! WONDERFUL! WON'T YOU COME TO THE FORMAL TEA PARTY TOO?
OH, NO, THIS IS
WHAT A CUTE PAIR OF SISTERS!
THIS IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER, SAKAKIBARA-SAN? ♡
OW--
WHAT? YOUNGER SISTER?!
MY YOUNGER SISTER DOESN'T KNOW THE TEA CEREMONY

WHY HIDE IT NOW?!
DON'T GIVE IT AWAY, SERIZAWA-SAN IS HERE.
OW. THAT REALLY HURT.
NO, IT'S NOT!
ゴン
You're the one that said to come see it
YO, IS YOUR PLAY ANY GOOD, LOLEWS?
LET'S HAVE TEA TO-GETHER!
WHAAAT? YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OFF YOUR KIMONO?
NOT FORSAKING, BUT A PRIOR ENGAGE-MENT...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT, I...
SO GIVE HER BACK!
SHUNA-CHAN'S PLAYING THE HEROINE THIS AFTERNOON.
ARE YOU FORSAKING US, SAKAKIBARA?

REINA-CHAN!
TOMOR-ROW'S SERENA IS...
OH YEAH. TOMOR-ROW IT'S A DIFFER-ENT CAST, ISN'T IT?
...WOULD IT BE AT ALL POSSIBLE TO SWITCH TODAY'S CAST OF THE PLAY WITH TOMORROW'S?
EH?
REINA-CHAN, YOU GOOD?
"I GUESS"?
I GUESS.
ニヘラ
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SWITCH! TELL THE OTHER MEMBERS!
GET US TICKETS TO THAT TEA PARTY.
SHINOSU-SAN, THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
OH MAN, I GOTTA FIND REINA.
Hmmm

REINA!
SO HERE YOU ARE, SLACKER QUEEN.
I've been looking
And you? How are the sales going?
LOOK, IT'S ABOUT THE PLAY. THEY SWITCHED TO TOMORROW'S SCRIPT IN A HURRY.
HEY ...
CAN YOU DO THE PLAY TODAY?

I CAN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T BE SERENA ANYMORE
HM?
HMM...
...WHAT'S WRONG?
WHA... WHEN YOU SAY YOU CAN'T, YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T DO IT TODAY?
BROH... THAT'S NOT SO GOOD...

AKI...!
DO IT TO YUUMA!
I DON'T CARE!
BESIDES, WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING IT TO UJOH...
YOU'RE TAKING IT TOO SERIOUSLY ISN'T THIS LIKE A WAY TO RELAX A LITTLE?
WHA... WHAT?
REIHA...
IT'S...
... IMPORTANT TO ME.

VERY WELL.
BUT DON'T YOU GO BLAMING UJOH IF HE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EITHER, OKAY?
WHOA, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
UJOH.
WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
...IS REGRESSIVE HYPNOSIS.
THANKS FOR THAT VEEEERY HONEST REACTION.
THIS IS AN ACTUAL FORM OF THERAPY, SO HEAR ME OUT WITHOUT PITCHING A FIT.

ARE... YOU INVOLVED IN SOME WEIRD RELIGION OR...?

MY PARENTS ARE PSYCHIATRISTS, AND ONE PART OF THEIR PRACTICE INVOLVES PERFORMING REGRESSIVE HYPNOSIS ON PATIENTS AS PART OF THEIR TREATMENT.

No!

IT SAYS HOW TO PERFORM IT IN ONE OF THE BOOKS MY FATHER WROTE...

...SO WHEN I TOLD REINA ABOUT IT, SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO TRY AND DO IT TO SEE HER PAST LIFE, SO...

* REGRESSIVE HYPNOSIS IS ONE FORM OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT THAT ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER MEMORIES OF EVENTS SO TRAUMATIC THAT THE PATIENT HAS BLOCKED THEM FROM CONSCIOUS MEMORY.

YOU'LL BE MEDITATING BASED ON MY INSTRUCTIONS.

MEDITATING?

THAT'S RIGHT. CLOSE YOUR EYES, RELAX YOUR MUSCLES, AND BREATHE IN DEEPLY.

BY ENTERING A RELAXED STATE ON TOP OF THE MEDITATION...

...THE DOOR TO YOUR DORMANT CONSCIOUSNESS WILL OPEN.

YOU'LL HAVE MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD AND MEMORIES OF WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR MOTHER'S BELLY...

...AND SOMETIMES EVEN MEMORIES OF YOUR PAST LIFE RESTORED NATURALLY.

PAST LIFE ...?!

I COULD HYPNOTIZE REINA, BUT..
...SHE COULDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
Not even the spirit is spectacular enough for me?
.....
HER PAST LIFE?
SHE WANTED TO CONFIRM IF SHE HAD A TIE TO YOU, RIGHT?
BUT THE THING WITH THIS IS, THERE ARE INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS.
IT WAS ORIGINALLY A WAY TO GET PEOPLE CARRYING DARKNESS IN THEIR HEARTS TO RELAX.
PAST LIFE...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR HER TO SEE IT, AS SHE'S HEALTHY IN MIND AND BODY, AND FINE AS SHE IS.
IT'S YOUR PAST LIFE TOO, YOU KNOW.
...I...
...I THINK I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.

LISTEN TO MY WORDS AS BEST YOU CAN..
..AND RELAX YOUR BODY.
OH? THEN LIE DOWN ON THIS CHAIR.
IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT EXPECTING THAT THIS SORT OF THING ..
...WILL CLEAR UP MY SAD FEELINGS AND HELP ME UNDERSTAND KEIOA AND THE OTHERS. .
NOW, TAKE DEEP BREATHS
SLOWLY...
SLOWLY...
BLOCK OUT ANY SURROUNDING NOISES
AND DIRECT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS TOWARDS YOUR BREATHING
BREATHE OUT YOUR USUAL STRESS...
...AND BY SLOWLY BREATHING IN ENERGY, YOU'LL RELAX DEEPLY.

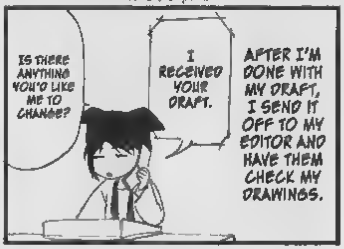
IT FEELS SO NICE
IMAGINE...
A BEAUTIFUL LIGHT WRAPS ALL AROUND YOU.
CALM YOUR BODY...
...AND CAST OFF YOUR TENSION.
YES... RELAX YOUR ARMS, YOUR LEGS, YOUR STOMACH.. ALL YOUR MUSCLES.
IT IS A WONDERFUL HEALING LIGHT.
FILLING YOU UP, PROTECTING YOU...
...IT GUIDES YOU.
HOW ODD.
I'M AWAKE BUT IN A DREAM.
AMID DEEP, PEACEFUL FEELINGS...
...YOUR MEMORIES WILL BEGIN TO SWELL.
A VERY CALM AND QUIET...
...WARM LIGHT.
IT'S LIKE I'M FLYING OFF SOMEWHERE...

NO.
...OF YOUR SACRED MEMORIES, FAR, FAR BACK.
YOU CAN REMEMBER EVERY-THING. .
I'M SEEING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.
BUT IT'S SO FAMILIAR.
THAT PRECIOUS...
THE SEA OF MY LIFE.
NEVER-ENDING MEADOWS.
HEADED FOR THAT FARAWAY SKY.
WAIT.
WAIT.
WHAT WAS FUN, WHAT MADE YOU HAPPY.
YOUR CHILDHOOD SELF, YOUR SELF IN YOUR MOTHER'S BELLY, YOUR SELF BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
FOLLOWING THAT LIGHT, YOU CAN GO AS FAR AS YOU WANT.

YOU DON'T NEED
TO KNOW THIS.

エスシー
NGライフ
scene28

Nice Viewpoint


IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE ME TO CHANGE?
I RECEIVED YOUR DRAFT.
AFTER I'M DONE WITH MY DRAFT, I SEND IT OFF TO MY EDITOR AND HAVE THEM CHECK MY DRAWINGS.

In the end that was all they wanted me to fix.
And that's why it's No Good

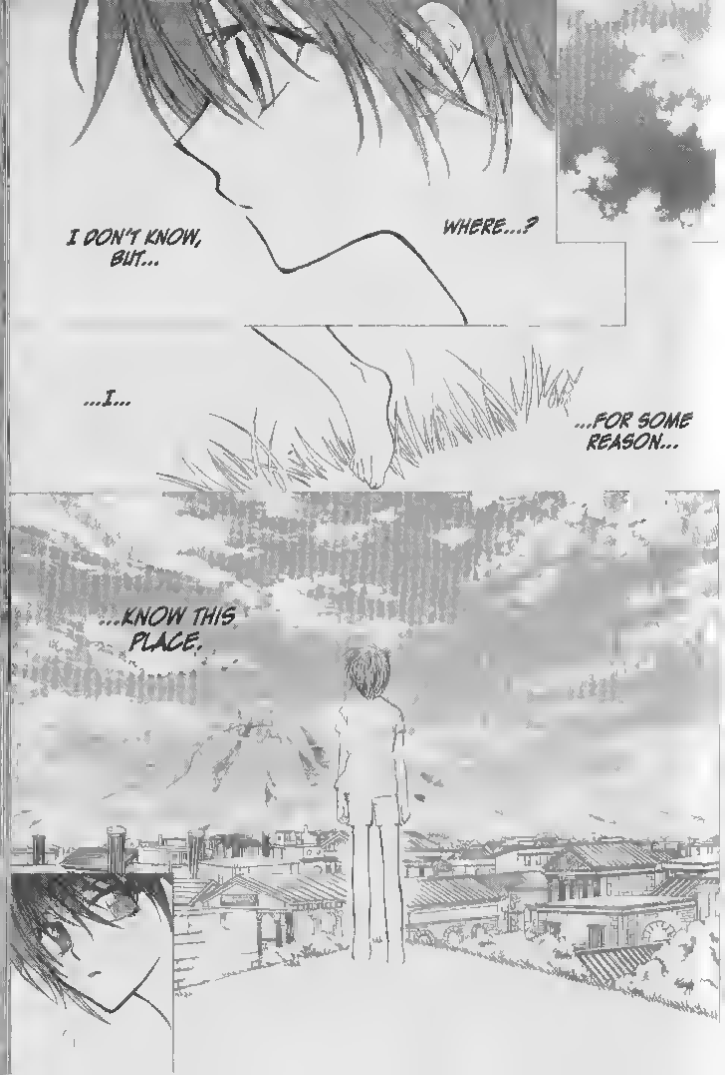
An NG-Life Like Account

KEI-CHAN.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE REINA-CHAN IS?
REIHA? NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS MORNING. HUH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE JUST SAW HER, DIDN'T WE?
THAT WAS YUUMA.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE AFTERNOON PLAY.
IS SHE NOT COMING BACK?
.....

HJOH.

WHAT...
...DO YOU SEE NOW?

A FAMILIAR... PLACE...
.....


I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
WHERE...?
...I...
...FOR SOME REASON...
...KNOW THIS PLACE.

IT'S HER.
I KNOW HER.
WHAT'S IN HER HEART GETS COMMUNICATED TO ME
IT MADE HER FEEL AT PEACE, YET EXCITED.
SHE LOVED TO STAND HERE AND GAZE DOWN ON THIS CITY

SERENA!
OH, I SEE.
I WONDER WHY I'M AT EASE.
SHE REALLY LIKES HIM.

IT'S STRETCHED ON AND ON THANKS TO SOME BUMPS ALONG THE WAY.
BUT MAN, IT'S BEEN SO LONG OVER A YEAR SINCE HE PROPOSED TO YOU...
Poor girl
Hee hee
Every time we tried to hold it before had give us a mountain of work to do.
That and that damn Raoul
THE BIG DAY'S FINALLY HERE!
YOUR WEDDING!
YAAAY! ♡ ...BUT DON'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF HIM...
BESIDES, I STILL WANT TO HAVE LOTS AND LOTS MORE FUN WITH YOU TOO, LOLEWS.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T NEED A CEREMONY.
I'M HAPPY JUST TO BE WITH HIM.
WHO...
AT ANY RATE, I'LL TRY TO DISTRACT BIG SIS SMYRNA. .

I had been asked to draw a story featuring Loleus and his past life for Hana to Yume, but the timing for having it included in the compiled volume has been so off, it keeps getting pushed aside. At first I had hoped to include it in this book, but it got pushed back and then I was hoping to have it included in Volume 6 but that got pushed back as well. I wonder when it'll finally happen...?

I apologize to everyone that's been awaiting the chance to read Loleus' story. But if I ever get the opportunity, I'd love to do it again so please keep checking Hana every so often.

But the inclusion of side stories like this tends to wind up rather delayed.

I'm always so excited for the chance to draw chapters about Pompeii♡

And so many people tell me how much they like Loleus, so I would love to draw something about him again. Though he doesn't have very many appearances right now.

GUEEEEHHH!
...WERE YOU GOING TO DISTRACT, LOLEUS?
ELDER SISTER, DON'T BULLY LOLEUS.
NAH, I'M ONLY KIDDIN', BIG SIS SMYRNA!
SO IT WAS THIS, HUH?
I THOUGHT HE WAS SNEAKING AROUND ALL SUSPICIOUS
MISS ARIA.
BIG SISTER SERENA!

IF RAOUL DARES TO COME BY AND CAUSE TROUBLE, I'LL SEND HIM PACKING!
ME TOO.
I'M SO HAPPY THAT WE'LL BE FAMILY SOON, SERENA.
THEN YOU STOP WITH THE "MISS ARIA" TOO, OKAY SERENA?
And the formal language
COME ON... PLEASE STOP WITH THE "BIG SISTER." AFTER ALL, WE'RE THE SAME AGE.
SERENA!
Bdmp.
I KNOW THIS VOICE WELL.
ON!
WHO...?
HE'S...
SIR...
Bdmp.

AHHH, IT'S STARTED.
IF YOU WANT TO MARRY SEREHA, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ME FIRST.
BUT!
Jeez.
EVEN THOUGH BIG SIS SMYRNA'S TANTRUMS ARE LIKE A DAILY OCCURRENCE...
IT'S SO WARM HERE.
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M SO FULFILLED.
...WITH HER HEART.
I'M STARTING TO SYNCHRONIZE...
...IX...
AIEEEE!!
SO YOU'VE SHOWN UP, HUH? YOU WEAKLING OF A MAN!!
DIE!!

...MAKE YOU HAPPY TOO.
I WANT TO...
EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE A CERE-MONY...
...I AM HAPPY.
EVERY-THING IS RIGHT HERE.
BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE, AND EVERYONE IS HERE.
MORE SACRED THAN ALL ELSE..
.. IS YOU WHO GAVE ME SO MUCH HAPPINESS I CAN HARDLY CONTAIN IT.
MAY I...
...STAY WITH YOU?
...MA...
...YENES.

YUUMA!
HE'S UP...
UJOH! WE WERE WORRIED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T RESPOND TO US CALLING YOUR NAME OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
Did You fall asleep?
.....
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN HERE?
N-NO, NOTHING

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO SLEEP, YUUMA.
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO GET REINA?
REINA, THE ORDER OF THE PLAYS HAS BEEN SWITCHED.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PLAYING SERENA FOR THE PERFORMANCE THIS AFTERNOON.
...I CAN'T DO IT...
WHAAAT?! ...UGH.. BUT I GUESS IT IS SUDDEN NEWS.
As to be expected.
SERENA..
SERENA... IS...
...RIGHT... HERE.

UH...
ガシッ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KEIDAI?
ARE... YOU...
...ALL... RIGHT...
ぎゅっ...
GAAHH!!

UJOH! WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? YOU'RE ALL WEIRD!
WEIRD?! I'M WEIRD?!
WEIRD.
ISN'T YUUMA THE WEIRD ONE?!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YUUMA?!
NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
PAGING...
WHAT'S WITH THAT NONSTOP OVERFLOWING SPARKLING?!
I can't even look him in the eye.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 2-9, KEIDAI SAEKI-KUN, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-1, REINA SAKAKIBARA-SAN. PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE GYMNASIUM.
OH CRAP, THE PLAY'S STARTING!
AH...
AT ANY RATE, WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER.
LET'S GO, REINA!!
...THAT REALLY SURPRISED ME.
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT YUUMA?
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE REINCARNATION OF VENUS*. .
PROBABLY MY ALWAYS-OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION.
I THINK I WAS MISTAKEN, BUT. .
*THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY.

Y-Y-Y-
YUUMA! WHY ARE YOU...
GAH!!
C-C-C-
CALM DOWN! SHOULDN'T YOU BE USED TO SEEING HIM LIKE THIS BY NOW?!
I-I MISTOOK YOU FOR REINA.
You guys and those outfits get confusing
I BETTER TAKE YOU BACK.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR..
...SERENA ...?

GYAAAHH!
...RIGHT HERE.
SERENA IS...
Melted
Reconstructing
IF ANYTHING, THIS IS..
SO STRANGE... HIS SMILE HAS 30 TIMES MORE DESTRUCTIVE POWER THAN NORMAL...
IF ANYTHING, INSTEAD OF YUUMA...

WE MADE IT TO THE GYM.
YO.
DID YOU BRING REINA?
ISN'T THIS... YUUMA...?
YEAH, BUT...
SERENA...
...IS RIGHT HERE...

...WHY IS HE BEING SERENA?
This feeling is familiar
SINCE REINA SAID SHE COULDN'T DO IT...
...I THINK HE'S SAYING, "I'LL PLAY SERENA INSTEAD, GUYS!" ☆
Probably.
By acting like Serena
KEIDAI, SERIZAWA WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
AHH. AT THIS POINT, I'LL DISCUSS THIS WITH SERIZAWA...

SE...
RE...
SO IT'S LIKE THAT.
HIDING
LOOKS LIKE YUUMA'S GONNA BE IN THE PLAY
YUUMA ...?
THAT...?

FIRST OFF, CHANGE INTO YOUR COSTUME.
I'M SO GLAD YOU MADE IT!
REINA-CHAN!
SEEMED JUST LIKE SERENA.
AH, WAIT!
THE BOYS' CHANGING ROOM IS THIS WAY!
Listen to me!
YOU TOO, KEI-CHAN, HURRY AND CHANGE
AREN'T YOU LOLELLS?
UMM, ACTUALLY THAT'S ..
GIRLS' CHANGING ROOM.
SAKAKIBARA! DO YOU KNOW YOUR LINES?
I'M NOT... SAKAKI-BARA...
HO HO, ALREADY WEARING SEREHA'S MASK, ARE WE?
Splendid
スル

NO...
NO--
NO--
Wig
No boobs
YOUR CHEST! HERE, STUFF IT WITH THIS!
Didn't want to deal with it
Cotton
NO BOOBS!
THE DRAMA CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS TO YOU THE PLAY "MY BELOVED POMPEII." PLEASE ENJOY THE SHOW
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

"SIRIX! HOW COME YOU'RE SPACING OUT?"
"I WAS JUST WONDERING WHO THE GIRL AT THE SURGEON'S HOUSE MIGHT BE?"
"HM?"
"OHH."
"THAT'S SERENA..."

OH MAN, OH MAN. I ALMOST DIED HAPPY LOOKING AT HER.
ME TOO. THAT WAS CLOSE!
VENUS?!
L-LOLEUS!
Onstage
Died happy
What good is fainting going to do?
I'm Mizuno
That girl is Sailor Venus's little sister?
I'm Kou
I'm Diana
In the audience
I'VE SEEN YUUMA AS SERENA MANY TIMES UP UNTIL NOW.
BUT THIS IS BAD.
THIS IS LIKE, SO BAD.
IT'S NOT ABOUT SEEING HIM AS HER.
I CAN ONLY SEE SERENA.
HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER, AKI?
JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, YUUMA?!

HE'S ONSTAGE IN THAT STATE?!
HE'S PERFORMING INSTEAD OF ME...
Uh, oh
"THAT STATE"?
UH... OH, OVER THERE!
WHERE'S WJOH?
HE WAS ACTING STRANGELY JUST NOW, RIGHT?
YEAH, I GUESS.
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT HE WAS MESSING AROUND.
IT MIGHT BE THAT..
"IT'S A PROMISE, SERENA."
"IF I WIN THIS COMPETI-TION "
" YOU'LL ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL "
SERENA...?

MADAM PRESIDENT, ISN'T REINA-CHAN A LITTLE OFF?
TO BE HONEST, SHE ISN'T SAYING HER LINES
DON'T FALL ASLEEP! AND I'M SIRIX!
"SERENA, LET'S HAVE A SMALL WEDDING ON THAT HILL."
...A... WEDDING...?
...NEVER HAD A WEDDING.
WHA...
BUT EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE A CEREMONY...
...I AM... HAPPY.
..LORD SIRIX .. WE..

YUUMA.
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU...
I WANT TO...
...MAKE YOU HAPPY TOO.
UUOH... MIGHT BE STILL UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE REGRESSIVE HYPNOSIS I DID..
THOSE ARE THE WORDS THAT SERENA...
MAY I...
...STAY WITH YOU?
SAID TO ME THEN.
WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME..
That's not in the script?
SE.. SERENA?
BECAUSE EVERY-THING
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YUUMA?
...IS RIGHT HERE.

THOUGH I THINK IT'S SOMETHING AKIN TO SLEEPWALKING...
I DON'T KNOW.
...AND I WONDER IF HE'S ASSUMED THE PERSONALITY OF SOMEONE FROM HIS DREAMS...
I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE, BUT HIS FEELINGS ARE PROBABLY ELSEWHERE
THEN WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THAT..
...HIS MEMORIES OF HIS PAST LIFE HAVE BEEN RESTORED...?!

NGライフ
scene29

YUUMA.
DON'T TELL ME...
...YOUR MEMORIES...

Right now I'm drinking some tea that someone brought me & I love tea (especially green tea) and I'm always drinking it while I work. I'm also always snacking as well. For snacks, the cheese flavored Jagariko is currently my flavor of the month. ♪

When I first sit down to do my rough, rough draft of the comic and I'm just biting into these hard snacks like CRUNCH CRUNCH, it's like it helps my mind become more active. Well, I don't know if that's the real reason, but either way, it's a habit of mine.

And oh, though it's been slightly half-assed, it's actually time for this column to come to a close. Thank you for reading! And if you feel like it, please read my next book too. See you again!

"Special Thanks"
All my assistants
My handlers
The editorial staff
My family and friends

OH, I SEE. NO WONDER I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS WEIRD
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YUUMA.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PLAY.
YEAH...
JUST A SECOND. THOSE LINES JUST NOW AREN'T IN THE SCRIPT?
...MAYBE AD-LIBBING SINCE HE DIDN'T KNOW THE LINES...
WHEN I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE SPACING OUT, HE STARTED TO SAY THINGS NOT IN THE SCRIPT...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK FAINT.
SERI-ZAWA...

YUUMA'S MEMORIES MIGHT BE IN THE MIDDLE OF COMING BACK.
IT CAN'T BE..
SHINOGU-SAN, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT SERENA AND I DIDN'T HAVE AN OFFICIAL WEDDING?
THE WORDS THAT SHE SAID THEN...
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T IN THE SCRIPT...
...JUST NOW YUUMA SPOKE THEM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS EVEN HAPPENED...
...BUT IT COULD BE THAT TAKING ON THE ROLE OF SERENA
..TRIGGERED SOMETHING WITHIN HIM...
CURRENTLY YUUMA...
...IS SERENA HERSELF.
IF HIS MEMORIES HAVE REALLY COME BACK...
...THEN I WANT TO TALK...
...TO YUUMA...

OH NO... SO YOU AREN'T HAPPY?
LIKE I'D STAND FOR THAT!
RESTORING HIS MEMORIES OF SERENA... HUH
YOU'RE STILL JUST A WOMAN DEVOTED TO YOUR LITTLE SISTER, HUH?
EVEN IF YUUMA GETS HIS MEMORIES OF SERENA BACK, IT WON'T MAKE HIM HAPPY.
WHO'S A WOMAN?
WELL, I DUNNO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT IF IT'S THAT EASY TO BRING BACK MEMORIES, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLES.
TROUBLES? ARE THERE MEMORIES YOU WANT TO BRING BACK?
...AND TO SERENA.

...KEIDAI DIDN'T TELL YOU?
ABOUT WHAT?
SHUNA'S MEMORIES
...DISAPPEARED OUT OF THE BLUE A FEW MONTHS AGO
NOW... WHAT WILL APPEAR BEFORE US WHEN THE PLAY ENDS?
YUUMA?
WHAT ..
FINAL STAGE OF THE PLAY NOW

WHERE...
...AM I?
OR SERENA?

WHAT...
WHAT AM I DOING RIGHT NOW...?
...AND WAS WATCHING A CERTAIN PERSON'S MEMORY.
I FLEW TO SOME UNKNOWN PLACE...
I HEARD A VOICE CALLING FOR ME A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT...
I CLOSED MY EARS TO IT.
...WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS FROM HERE ON.
BECAUSE I STILL...

"MT. VESUVIUS!!"
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
Aaah
"IT'S ERUPTING!!"
"RUN!"
"I'LL RUN TO THE HARBOR!"
ERUPTING...
JUST A LITTLE MORE.
...IT'S LIKE A HAZE SUDDENLY FELL, AND HER MEMORIES GREW WEAK.
TO THEM
TO WHAT?
BUT RECENTLY...
"BECAUSE IF I DO, I FEEL LIKE I CAN GET CLOSER"

AH...
AAHH!

FU.

SERENA?
ザッ ザッ ザッ
SERENA?!

I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!!
HUH...?
THAT LIGHT ...
I CHASED IT TO GET HERE...
WAIT!
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S DARK...
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
I'M SCARED!!
YOU'RE NOT IN THE DARK AT ALL.
OPEN YOUR EYES.

WE MEET AGAIN.
IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU NEED?
SERENA, LONG TIME NO SEE.
I REMEMBERED...!
I...
...CHASED THIS AND GOT HERE.
IT'S WHAT YOU WERE WATCHING EARLIER.
THIS IS MY SOUL.
THIS... IS SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T BRING WITH ME?

THE PLACE WHERE I ENDED UP...
...WAS SO COMFORTABLE, SO WARM, SO SAD...
I WAS VERY SCARED.
BUT I FELT LIKE IF I HAD THIS
...I COULD GET CLOSER TO KEIGAI AND THE OTHERS.
AND IF YOU DON'T, YOU WON'T?
WILL THE TIES THAT BIND YOU BE UTTERLY SEVERED?
I...

I THINK HE'S JUST SLEEPING, BUT...
IS HE OKAY?
YO, HE STILL AIN'T OPENING HIS EYES?
IT'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF HE DOES OR DOESN'T HAVE HIS MEMORIES, YOU KNOW
BUT ISN'T YUUMA-KUN YUUMA-KUN?
THIS TIME WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE MAY NOT BE THE YUUMA THAT YOU USED TO KNOW.
YUUMA
OH, HE'S AWAKE.

DON'T TELL ME.
SERE ...
THE PLAY'S GONNA START!
OH NO!!
HM? WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MAID OUTFIT?
OH, REINA!! WHAT ABOUT THE PLAY?
HUH?

WHAAAAAT?!
SO REINA-CHAN WHO WAS BACKSTAGE GOT INTO COSTUME AND TOOK YOUR PLACE AT ONCE.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
WHAT?! NO WAY!
YOU FAINTED IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR PERFORMANCE, YUUMA-KUN.
THE PLAY ENDED.
AND YOU WERE IN IT.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... I FEEL LIKE I WAS ON STAGE, BUT...
THE PLAY...
...IS OVER.
YOU SAID SERENA'S LINES...
I FEEL KINDA GROSS. WAS I SLEEP-WALKING?
KEIDAI.

SO HIS MEMORIES DIDN'T COME BACK AFTER ALL... HUH.
YES, IT IS...
KEI-CHAN, EVERYONE WENT TO SEE SHUNA-CHAN.

KEI-CHAN.
BUT FOR JUST A SPLIT SECOND...
SO IT REALLY WAS JUST AN ACT AFTER ALL...
.. I FELT LIKE I WAS REUNITED WITH SERENA AGAIN.
BUT IT DIDN'T MEAN..
..HIS MEMORIES HAD BEEN RESTORED. . OR SOMETHING.

...OH, SORRY.
SHALL WE GO?
...IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NOW.
BECAUSE I...
...MIGHT SOMEDAY REMEMBER MY PAST LIFE...
...WILL YOU TELL ME MORE...
...STORIES FROM POMPEII?
SINCE I'M NOT SERENA...
..YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE DUE WITH THAT.

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE DUE WITH YOU.
OKAY THEN.
KEI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO NOT CUTE.
SAKAKI-BARA!
HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST--
KEIOAI, LET'S HAVE SOME TEA CAKES!
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY! MORE THAN THAT, HE CAME BY TO SEE YOUR GALLANT FIGURE THERE, SAKAKIBARA.
SO YOU CAME. I APOLOGIZE ABOUT THE PLAY.

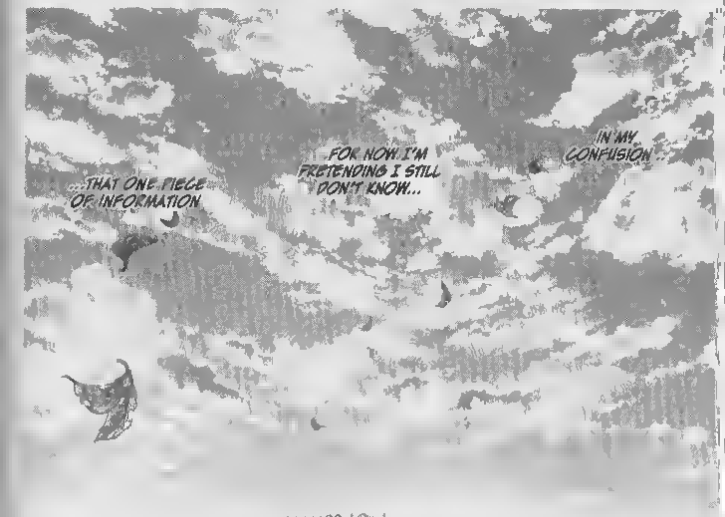
YOU LOOKED LIKE A GIRL, WEARING SERENA'S COSTUME.
SEEHHH!!
And now too
HEY.
HOW WAS I ONSTAGE?
IT'S LIKE I WAS HAVING A REALLY GOOD DREAM, BUT..
...I DON'T REMEMBER IT.
IS THAT...
...SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO YOU?
I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT, BUT
THE FACT THAT I DON'T REMEMBER IT .. I WONDER IF IT MEANS THAT I DON'T NEED IT.
WHAT SORT OF DREAM WAS THAT...?
THAT DREAM... ISN'T WORRYING YOU?
DID YOU SEE YOUR FARAWAY HOMELAND?

I THINK IT WAS TELLING ME...
...THAT IT WASN'T SOMETHING I HAD TO REMEMBER.
I DON'T NEED IT.
BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR HEART.
IT ISN'T MINE.
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO STAND SIDE-BY-SIDE AND WALK WITH THEM...
...EVEN WITHOUT THINGS LIKE THAT

HOW TO SAY THIS... IT'S LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN MANLIER...
LIKE ME?
So unlike before
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
キラキラ
REALLY?!
PASS.
C'mon Yuuma..
S-SORRY...
Too Sweets
UH!
HEEEEY! WHAT ARE YOU EATING?!
I'M TELLING KEIDAI JUST ONE LIE.
WAIT UP, YUUMA!

THE TRUTH IS, THERE IS JUST ONE THING...
...THAT I REMEMBER.

...LINGERING ON THE MEADOWS WHO IS THE OTHER PART OF MY SOUL.
THE NAME OF THE ONE...


...IN MY CONFUSION...
...FOR NOW I'M PRETENDING I STILL DON'T KNOW...
...THAT ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION

NG LIFE

...AGLAIA HAS DIED A SECOND TIME.

MIZUHO KUSANAGI

AND A CHANGE IS COMING ON FAST FOR KEIDAI AND SERIZAWA!

COMING SOON!

EMBRACING HER HATRED FOR ME...

MEMORIES OF A VANISHED TIME...

LIMITLESS EMOTION THAT CAN'T BE ERASED...

MIKAGE CONTINUES TO SEEK THE VANISHED MEMORIES OF AGLAIA IN SHUNA'S HEART... BUT AS HE CLUTCHES TO FADING FEELINGS, WILL MIKAGE EVENTUALLY CHOOSE AGLAIA OR SHUNA HERSELF? WHAT IS THE FINAL DESTINATION FOR THESE TWO WHOSE HEARTS CONTINUE TO PASS EACH OTHER BY?